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Inter-Arab Affairs

5th Round of Iran-Iraq Peace Talks To Begin

AU1904200489 Paris AFP in English 1942 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Geneva, April 19 (AFP)—United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar warned Wednesday against expecting too much from the fifth round of peace talks between Iran and Iraq, due to begin here Thursday.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar, who arrived in Geneva Wednesday, warned that it would be unrealistic to expect any substantial progress during the talks since Iran and Iraq remain very far apart on certain issues. He said the U.N. mediation effort would have to concentrate on reducing the distance between them.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar is to have three individual meetings Thursday morning before the talks open. The first will be with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who arrived in Geneva Wednesday morning, the second with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, due to arrive Wednesday evening, and the third with Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

In a statement published here Wednesday afternoon, Mr. Velayati blamed the Baghdad government for hampering the peace process.

"Iraq has failed to live up to its commitments under Security Council Resolution 598, the most important of which is to withdraw from more than 2,000 square kilometres of Iranian territory to the internationally recognised boundaries," Mr. Velayati said in the statement. "This has indeed put the peace process into a stalemate," Mr. Velayati said.

"The necessary momentum for the implementation of the resolution can only be created through the announcement by (Mr. Perez de Cuellar) of the date for the withdrawal and the procedure for its verification," Mr. Velayati continued.

"It seems that Iraqi officials do not appreciate the fact that the illegitimate and expansionist claims, which they could not achieve during the eight years of war, cannot be repeated in the course of the talks for the implementation of Resolution 598. Such expansionist aspirations seriously threaten peace and stability in our region," he said. [passage omitted]

No indication has been given on how long the latest round of peace talks is to last. Mr. Perez de Cuellar is due to leave Geneva Monday but he may pass on the mediation role to his special representative, Jan Eliasson.

The United Nations has so far mediated in four rounds of peace talks between Iran and Iraq, two in Geneva and two in New York.

Arab League Meeting on Lebanon Postponed

LD1904121589 Kuwait KUNA in English 1126 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Kuwait, April 19 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad announced here Wednesday that the emergency meeting of the Arab League council of Lebanon has been postponed till next Tuesday or Wednesday [25 or 26 April].

Shaykh Sabah told reporters that he regretted the delay in the meeting, which he called for in his capacity as chairman of the six-(?member) Arab committee on Lebanon.

The chief diplomat added that he had wished a speedy meeting to tackle the tragic situation in sisterly Lebanon, yet he said the postponement was necessitated by special circumstances due to pre-engagements of a number of Arab foreign ministers.

He noted that Jordanian Foreign Minister and member of the committee Marwan al-Qasim is accompanying King Husayn on his current Washington visit while Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh, another committee member, is currently touring Arab countries carrying messages for President Chadli Bendjedid.

The Syrian foreign minister, Faruq al-Shar', meanwhile, begins next Saturday an official scheduled visit to India, Shaykh Sabah noted.

The pre-engagements dictated the postponement of the extraordinary meeting from Friday till Tuesday or Wednesday next, he underlined. The deputy premier and foreign minister asserted that he will pursue contacts and consultations with all parties concerned in the Lebanese crisis to end the fighting and restore stability and tranquility to Lebanon.

Shaykh Sabah said that the committee of six will able [as received] a detailed report on outcome of its previous contacts with the league council meeting. The report includes a number of proposals and ideas that will be debated by the conferees, he concluded.

Boycott Office Blacklists Several Companies

JN1404154889 Manama WAKH in English 1525 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Company names as received]

[Text] Doha, April 14 (GNA)—The regional office of the Arab boycott against Israel has announced that a number of companies had been blacklisted. An official source at the office told QATARI NEWS AGENCY that the boycott decision was decided according to recommendations of the Arab boycott against Israel main office.

The blacklisted companies are:

The Canadian company, Taub David and Sons, the Cypriot company CHR Christofides, the Spanish companies of Huerituea, Inmobilarias, Fabrica Espanola de Magretos and Defna S.A.

Also boycotted are the Chinese company Shanghai Seagram Ltd, the Indian company Rahesh Pharmaceutical

and the Russian company Licensintorg, the Indian company B. Arunkumer, the U.S. company G.T.E General Telephone Electronics Corp, the Indian company LA Pharmaceuticals Motilal Estate, the Belgian company T.P. Industries, the Dutch company Naamloze Venootschap DSM, the British companies Woolworth Holdings and Mark and Spencer, the Canadian company Infasco and the U.S. company Gulton Industries.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Radio: Dialogue Will Test U.S. 'Intentions'

JN1904210489 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1713 GMT 19 Apr 89

["Spotlight" feature: "We Are the Ones Who Test and Are Not Up for Testing]

[Text] The issue that has become obvious is that there is no solution, stability, or peace in the Middle East region, except after Washington discards its maneuvers and after it stops throwing the ball into the court of others.

There is no doubt that Washington has started realizing, or it should start realizing, that the only side nominated to be put to the test is Washington itself firstly and its expansionist, colonialist, and occupying Israeli agent secondly.

The PLO's intentions are not what should be put to the test as claims U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Eagleburger. Neither our people nor blessed intifadah [uprising] nor clear and declared objectives are the ones being put to the test. We are not occupying other people's territories to be tested on whether we will withdraw from these territories. We are not the racist tyrants and executors of massacres to be tested on whether we will abandon these practices which the whole world rejects.

Washington has falsified enough. The Zionist Eagleburger has distorted the clear facts enough. Yes. We are the ones who test Washington's intentions. Dialogue with Washington is only to test its intentions. Is it going to be an arbiter or a party as it has always been? Does it intend to establish a solution, peace, and stability or does it intend to continue the war, occupation, destruction, and oppression of which no nation in history has seen the like before?

We say, enough prevarications by Washington. Enough trial balloons. We are the ones who test and are not up for testing.

PLO Radio Urges Removal of 'Clique' in Syria

JN1904212789 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1859 GMT 19 Apr 89

["A Reading of the Political Situation" feature: "Damascus and the Jerusalem Edict"]

[Text] Whenever we say that the Damascus ruling regime has changed and has changed its policies, alliances, and aggressive objectives toward its people and other Arab peoples, this regime foils our expectations and optimism.

First, there is increasing talk about Palestinian-Syrian reconciliation. The Damascus regime's mass media are speaking sugar-coated words about Damascus' open gates to the Palestinians.

Second, there is increasing talk about the need to hold a meeting for the Arab five-member committee of states directly concerned about the future of the Arab-Zionist conflict. The Damascus media and officials, who became professionals in biased and cloak-and-dagger political action, welcomed the meeting.

Third, they officially confirm these announcements in meetings with brothers and friends. Damascus uses a certain language. Its politicians, journalists, and papers talk about the need to convene the ordinary Arab summit in Riyadh and in the presence of Egypt. They announce they will not boycott the summit if Egypt attends.

Fourth, the Damascus cliches also continue about the need to find a solution to the Lebanese crisis and reach reconciliation among the rival Lebanese factions, as Damascus announces.

Fifth, Damascus announces it has no objection to the convocation of an emergency Arab summit to be devoted to the Palestine question and its developments.

Sixth, Damascus announces that it aborted an attempt to smuggle 1,100 kg of hashish from the port of Tartus. Everyone knows that the hashish farms in Al-Biqa' valley and Ba'labakk have increased tens of times since the Syrian Army entered Lebanon. Similar announcements are continuous.

Although reality, events, papers, rumors, and the talk of ordinary Damascus citizens refute the Damascus announcements, the announcements are continuous, and the situation is preceding as follows: There is unanimity on the need to convene an Arab summit and for Egypt's return. Damascus openly says yes, but secretly says no, adhering to feeble pretexts.

Everybody is agreed that there is a need for the emergency summit to formulate a unified Arab stand on the maneuvers and trial balloons released by Washington and Tel Aviv regarding the future of the Palestinian land. Openly, Damascus says yes, secretly, it says no. Everybody is agreed about the need for reconciliation between Damascus and the PLO. Damascus says yes, but says a hidden no. Damascus wants only a reconciliation from which it makes tiny gains to keep some of its prestige, without making any political sacrifice.

Everybody is agreed about the need to end the continuous disaster in Lebanon. Damascus announces yes and says a hidden no. It sets Beirut ablaze. This clearly indicates that Damascus' objective is to annihilate every

living and non-living thing in Beirut. As for the five-member committee, Damascus communicates its consent to Moscow and officially informs Shevardnadze of that. Meanwhile, it begs other Arab parties to declare rejection of the meeting of the five-member committee.

O Arabs: For how long will you endure this slave trade in the Arab political market? Until when will this despicable sectarianism ruling in Damascus continue to control you? Until when will the interests of the entire Arab nation be geared in favor of a clique that is alien to the Arabs and Muslims?

Damascus does not want the intifadah [uprising] to triumph. Damascus does not want Egypt to play its leading role. Damascus does not want stability and peace in Lebanon. Damascus rejects the reality of Iraq's victory and wishes that the Gulf war could be reignited, and if not, Damascus will work for that. Damascus wants only Damascus. The sect wants only the sect. The regime wants only the regime. Al-Asad wants nobody but Al-Asad.

Years ago, our struggler mufti, Shaykh al-'Alami, in his capacity as the mufti of holy Jerusalem, issued an edict legalizing and urging the killing of Al-Asad. Now, we say it is high time the Arabs adopted this edict and this sound vision. The only solution is to get rid of this ruling clique in Damascus. Otherwise, its sticks will continue to obstruct the Arab wheel.

DFLP Head Praises Libyan Support for Palestine

LD1904180489 Tripoli JANA in English 1614 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tayr [April] 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Mr Nayif Hawatimah, the sec. gen. of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has stressed that consultation and coordination between the great Al-Fatih Revolution and the Palestine revolution ensure all kinds of political, moral, spiritual and scientific assistance and support to the onraging people's revolution in occupied Palestine. He has highly appreciated this support by the people of Great Al-Jamahiriyah and the leader of its revolution to the Palestinian Arab people.

In an interview conducted with him by the Voice of the Great Arab Homeland—the voice of the people's committees—Mr Hawatimah has pointed out that the resolutions passed at Algiers summit for supporting the Palestine revolution in occupied Palestine have not been implemented excepting great Al-Jamahiriyah that has been one of the few countries that have put these resolutions into practice while the majority of Arab countries have not as yet implemented any of these resolutions.

He points out that the escalation of the people's revolution in occupied Palestine has foiled all the Zionist-imperialist-reactionary attempts including the reactionary Palestinian-Arab attempts adding that this revolution says clearly that there will be no stop or surrender but it will escalate until the liberation of the whole of Palestine and the departure of the occupiers.

He announces that this revolution rejects all the suspicious and terrorist schemes aired presently by the Zionist terrorists.

He points out that this stresses clearly that this revolution has rejected once and for all the U.S.-Zionist maneuvers and is resolved to continue the struggle until the Zionist occupation is abolished thereby getting Palestine liberated from the sea to the River and from the south to the south.

He appreciates highly the effectiveness of the people's committees supervising the revolution of the generation of anger in occupied Palestine. He adds that alongside the combatant force, these committees have mushroomed by thousands throughout Palestine regulating life there. They exercise practically the implementation of the resolutions of the masses of the people's revolution to reconfirm the people's power and regulate the economic, social, educational and health aspects of the life of the people, apart from running the administrative side of this people suffering from the yoke of Zionist occupation.

These committees, he adds, lead daily all forms of confrontation with the Zionist invaders mushrooming in every quarter, camps and village and city to stress that the organs built by the Zionist invaders over 21 years in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are demolished one by one including the so-called the village councils, the municipality councils, the police, the tax administrations. In return, the people's committees and the people's power are established in Palestine.

Mr Hawatimah has added in the interview conducted with him by the Voice of the Great Arab Homeland—the voice of the revolutionary committees—that the strikes are taking place almost daily over the last 17 months and the possibility of having them stepped up are there.

He continues that 2 million people are on general strike: the producers, the students and workers are all on strike. He points out that these strikes, the civilian disobedience, the secret subversion of the Zionist facilities [words indistinct] targets are effective weapons and long-term ones through the full confrontation with the Zionist enemy.

He stresses what is taking place in occupied Palestine is the fullest people's revolution of national liberation movement in our present world since the Second World War until now.

He adds that the guards of the Zionist entity are oppressing their masses and preventing them from moving. This has prevented the spread of the people's revolution in the Arab homeland and has prevented the embodiment of the pan-Arabism of the fight and the pan-Arabism of the guerrilla action and the opening of the volunteering work to the Arab youth towards occupied Palestine to liberate it from the sea to the river and from the south to the south.

Algeria

Mediation Between Spain, Basque Terrorists Ends

LD1904215389 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Algeria, the country which significantly contributed to the fight against terrorism in the past few hours by expelling six Basque Fatherland and Liberty [ETA] members from its territory—once the negotiations in Algiers broke down—today ended its good offices mission in the talks between the Spanish Government and the terrorist organization.

The Algerian Government said in a note, released this evening, that both sides provoked the breakdown because of their interests. Moreover, they actively provoked a breakdown. The note, which does not mention the departure of the six ETA members, says that Algeria was unable to continue maintaining a process which has been forced and manipulated and because it does not want to be an accomplice in something which its history does not allow. For this reason, Algeria has put an end to its good offices. This is the wording of the Algerian Government's official notice which, as we said, was released in Spain this evening.

1,300 Miners Continue Strike in Ouenza

LD2004101289 Algiers Domestic Service in French 0100 GMT 20 Apr 89

[Text] At Ouenza, 1,300 miners have been on strike since 11 April. They are all employed by the Feroce enterprise, which mines iron and phosphate at Ouenza. The striking miners are demanding the dissolution of the General Union of Algerian Workers territorial union. In support of their claims, the miners stress that the members of the union have been in office for 16 years.

Egypt

MENA Cites Mubarak AL-SIYASAH Interview

NC1904195089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 19 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has called on the Arab countries to unify their political stance and strengthen their cooperation. He stressed the need for regular Arab gatherings to make progress. He said that Arab meetings will benefit the Arab world and bolster its unity and cooperation. He noted that regular meetings enable the Arabs to bring their views closer, deepen their understanding of their problems, and bring them closer together.

In a comprehensive interview with Ahmad al-Jarallah, chief editor of the Kuwaiti paper AL-SIYASAH, to be published tomorrow, Thursday, Mubarak noted that arrangements are under way to convene the extraordinary summit, called by Moroccan King Hassan II, on 20 May. He said that the custodian of the two holy mosques wanted an ordinary session and genuinely sought to arrange for it. It seems, however, more likely that an extraordinary summit will be convened. He stressed that summit meetings, whether ordinary or extraordinary, should be preceded by meetings designed to resolve all existing problems in the Arab world, such as the Palestinian and Lebanese problems, so that there may be a unified position.

On the question of inviting Egypt to attend the Arab summit, President Mubarak said that Egypt has no sensitivites. If Egypt is invited, it will attend, he said, adding: Of course, I will go in response to an official invitation, not an unofficial one.

During the interview, President Mubarak dealt with a number of issues, including the Palestinian problem, the Lebanese issue, and Egypt's relations with its Arab neighbors, as well as several domestic issues.

Responding to a question on whether the Israelis have any intention of resolving the Middle East crisis, President Mubarak said: If there is any real intention, which I hope there is, there are many ways of solving the issue. Shamir proposes elections, but wy doesn't he agree to an [international] conference, at least to give some hope? If the PLO agrees to elections in the future, it will have a basis to rely on; namely, the international conference. But what is the meaning of this insistence on elections, when that which is to follow is vague and cannot be understood? What is the next step after the elections? We want to know what is behind the elections what will follow them. Things must be clear.

Mubarak was asked about his talks with U.S. President Geoge Bush and whether there was any disparity in the dialogue between Bush and himself on the one hand and Israeli Prime MInister Shamir on the other. He said: There was no disparity [tafawut]. The U.S. president gave me nothing and gave Shamir something else [sentence as received]. There are agreed upon principles: The principle of ending the occupation and the principle of land for peace. These are principles that Bush accepted.

Prior to this the Americans recognized the usefulness of dialogue with the PLO. They held a dialogue with the PLO. This is good progress. Shamir, however, went to Washington and put another issue to the President; namely, elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In my view, the United States does not reject this principle; rather it is attracted to it, because it is a democratic state.

What I really fear is that this principle may turn into a way of stalling and obstructing a solution to the crisis. How? Israel proposes elections and the PLO accepts, provided that Israel withdraws from the West Bank and Gaza. Shamir, naturally, will not accept this. If we accept elections under international supervision, under what law would the elections take place? What would be the

fate of Jerusalem, which is divided into two parts? What form would the elections take? What I mean is that we would differ on the points of each of these questions.

These points are related to the issue of the elections that Shamir proposes. If there are good intentions to end the Middle East crisis, it is possible to get on with a certain process. If, however, there are no good intentions, each party will prevaricate and there will be no solution.

Regarding Syria's position on the international conference, President Mubarak said that if the international conference convenes, Syria will be involved. No one has ever said that Syria should be excluded. Syria is an Arab state, and even if we disagree with it, it will remain an Arab state.

Mubarak continued: When I went to the United States before the end of Reagan's term, Shultz asked me about certain issues and said that they had sent a special envoy to Jordan. I told him he should send another envoy to Syria. And indeed, they sent Richard Murphy to Damascus, after I emphasized to them that Syria is an Arab state and a party to the conflict, and must not be ignored.

President Mubarak then discussed the Lebanese problem. He emphasized the need to find a solution to this problem during the next Arab summit. He said: Even the international organization is now thinking about finding a solution to the Lebanese problem. The international organization, by the way, wants the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon, whether they are Syrian or Israeli. This is what we said a long time ago.

Our opinion is that all non-Lebanese forces must get out of Lebanon in order for the problem to be solved. In our view, if a solution goes ahead, we will see a solution to the Middle East problem. And if the Middle East problem is solved first, the Lebanese problem will also be solved—I mean if there is a Middle East solution before there is a Lebanese solution.

Answering a question about the efforts of the six-member Arab committee that is chaired by Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, President Mubarak praised Shaykh al-Sabah's efforts and said: I hope that he will succeed. In addition to these efforts, the problem demands international pressure because of the presence of the Israelis—international pressure, particularly from the big powers and the European states, especially France. An international effort is currently being made to solve the Lebanese problem. This could at least lead to an end to the war through a permanent truce.

Mubarak was asked to comment on the view that the Gulf war has moved to Lebanon because of Iran's involvement in the war in this fraternal country. He replied: Our information indicates that Iran has indeed sent reinforcements to Lebanon. The Arab world must understand the gravity of such a step, because it threatens many people, not only those in Lebanon. Iran is sending soldiers to Lebanon. Unless an end is put to this, the Arab nation will suffer in the future. Therefore, I am anxious for the Palestinian problem to end quickly so that this problem will also end. The convening of an international conference will lead to many things which are advantageous to the Arab world.

Mubarak was asked how far Egyptian-Syrian relations have come. He said: To nothing. When I was in Kuwait during the Islamic summit, I extended my hand to President Hafiz al-Asad. My meeting with him was not prearranged. It happened that I entered the hall and found Al-Asad standing with Shaykh Zayid. I approached him and shook hands with him because I am not a person who avoids such situations. If we differ on principles we should not differ personally.

Moreover, I suggested to President al-Asad that I visit him in Syria. He declined, because he believes that, if we meet, we should know in advance what we want. The subject ended there. The propaganda attacks have stopped and this is good. There is nothing between us and Syria. As Arab brothers, I do not believe that we should turn our backs on each other at an international forum, even if our political views differ. I did not want us to be a laughingstock of the world.

The president asked: Why is it that when we differ politically we do not meet with each other? We can differ but we should meet. Even the propaganda campaigns among us should cease if they are no longer effective. Such campaigns exist nowhere else but in Arab countries. True, such campaigns were previously started by Egypt, but that is over now. Regrettably, all the Arab world countries vilified each other, but what benefit did they reap, what did they gain? Nothing, except that they made us a laughingstock in the eyes of the world.

At this point, I would like to ask: What did the propaganda abuse do for us and what benefit did we get from it other than hurt feelings? There is nothing of this sort in the civilized world today. I believe that we have now matured and we must refrain from such things. I am saying this as a reminder and nothing else.

He said: I do not believe that the vilifications that filled the Arab world in the past endowed any head of state with an image of courage; on the contrary, they reflected the bad methods pursued by the head of state who was using them.

Regarding Egyptian-Libyan relations, the president said, in his interview with AL-SIYASAH: We want nothing from the Libyans, other than good neighborliness. I sometimes defend them in international forums and indeed support them without their knowledge. On our part, we have stopped abusing them and we do not want to engage in such propaganda bickering.

The president also dealt with domestic issues, particularly the question of prices, investment companies, and the replacement of the defense minister.

Regarding the accomplishments of the economic group, President Mubarak said: The economic reforms which have taken place were carried out by the present government. In the past, the government used to come to me with a decision on raising prices. I always used to ask what burdens such a decision would place on the citizen, and which group would benefit and which group would not benefit from such a decision.

I will elaborate. When they came to me to ask that we raise electricity prices for the consumer, I studied at whose expense this decision would be. Would it be at the expense of the middle-income people or at the expense of those who use air conditioners excessively and those who make extensive use of electrical equipment and can afford to pay. Sometimes those who consume excessive electricity and can pay are the ones who take a stand against raising prices on the pretext of serving the middle-income people. The prices are only increased after a thorough study by the economic group so that when a decision is made it will be a carefully studied one.

We are facing curious phenomena. As president of the republic, I discovered that a liter of bottled water is more expensive than a liter of gasoline. A liter of water costs 60 piasters, while a liter of gasoline costs 40 piasters. Nevertheless, everything pertaining to economic activity is governed by the capability of the middle-income citizen.

Someone comes to me and complains. He says: Mr President, electricity is expensive and I pay so much per month. When I ask him how many air conditioners he has, he says: I have four air conditioners and three televisions. When I ask: Aren't four air conditioners too many? He says: The weather is hot, Mr President. I say to him: As long as you are able to pay, you must do so.

Once again, I say that the economic group has made studies, which may have been slow but are useful. Normally it takes some time to make economic decisions. An economic group comes to me with studies in which it has put time and effort. In order to have peace of mind, I request other studies and more details so that the decision in the end will be correct and we will not be blamed for it.

Regarding the investment companies and what happened to the Al-Rayyan company, President Mubarak said: We are pursuing the matter. If there are funds abroad, we do not expect a quick solution to this catastrophe. The blame, of course, lies with the investor, who should have been careful where he was putting his money. If he saw the receipts which he got when they took his money, it would have been sufficient to ascertain that they erre useless, because they were not legally binding on investment companies.

Of course, in the absence of awareness, the government used to hint and warn, but no one was ready to listen. Everyone was too busy seeking to reap imaginary financial profits paid to the investor. If we had intervened at that time, voices would have been raised denouncing us. It is no secret that there were some who invested and deposited money on the 3d and 4th days of the catastrophe. There were some who invested outside Egypt. They sent their money abroad without our knowledge. It is a catastrophe the like of which happens in all countries of the world.

The only thing we can do now is to pursue the money abroad—if it exists. We must not forget that the question of pursuing the funds demands prior agreements with foreign countries in order to repatriate the money, if it can be found. In Egypt, we left the matter in the hands of the courts. Of course, we are not happy about what happened. But what is done, is done.

Regarding recent rumors about the decision appointing Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah as assistant to the president, Mubarak denied the existence of centers of power. He said: In my view, these centers ceased to exist in 1967. Regarding the Army, I emphasize my certainty that currently there are no power centers. He stated: I have heard many rumors about the decision to change Abu Ghazalah's position, but these rumors are not true. There are no such things in Egypt as these rumors claim.

In this respect, he noted that certain people had spoken of a military coup. He stressed that the Egyptian Army is large and has traditions, discipline, and loyalty to the homeland. He said that such things do not occur in the Army because its tasks and responsibilities, particularly in a state of institutions, are far from such things.

Regarding rumors that he raised the level of military preparedness to maximum level to confront all eventualities after he made his decision on Abu Ghazalah, Mubarak said: Nothing of the kind happened. You can reassure yourself and ask anyone you want. The Army itself received the news as did all constitutional establishments in the state. Even the media knew nothing about it until after the decision was made. They broadcast, transmitted, and disseminated the news later.

No one knew of the decision except the president of the republic. As I told you, it is a republican decision that was made after all its aspects were fully studied. The decision was not known to anyone. I believe that such important decisions should not be talked about too much. When there is conviction about something, a decision is made and the goal in all cases is the public interest.

President Mubarak added: I always think that we must prepare men for such sensitive state posts, because no one will live forever. Anyone can suddenly withdraw from his post for health or other reasons. Therefore, we must prepare replacements to hold these posts. It is my

habit to be careful about having a replacement for every post when the need arises and when a post becomes vacant. My goal is to develop, instill new activity, or infuse new blood in these centers for their own good.

He noted that in such situations, talk and rumors are unavoidable, because our society is unlike others. I know that certain people broached ideas similar to yours about the existence of power centers and so on. We hear rumors, like you, but we cannot forbid people to talk. Rest assured, none of the rumors about the change of Abu Ghazalah's position are true. I am ready to answer any question that might make the picture clearer.

To a question on the rumors that such a decision could lead to a military coup, President Mubarak emphasized that there is nothing more to this matter than mere unfounded speculation. He said that the old method that prevailed in the past is still in people's minds. Some people still have the old mentality: Since the July revolution took place, other revolutions and coups must follow. The situation in Egypt has changed, he declared. We now have a system of institutions; we have democracy.

Furthermore, if anyone wants to stage a coup, he must have strong motives to do so and there must be public consensus on it. We do not have an issue on which the people agree and which necessitates a coup. We may have some problems in our economic situation, but even these the state continues to resolve. We listen to those who have new ideas about these issues and we apply the good suggestions. We are prepared to listen to any proposals about improving the economic performance in our country. This matter is preoccupying our people and I emphasize that performance has improved in comparison to what it was.

The president said: When we hear ideas about these subjects, we exclude the Byzantine aspects and apply what we feel is appropriate to improving economic performance. As I have said and as everyone is aware, what we suffer from and are simultaneously remedying was inherited from the distant past. However, there is no doubt that matters are improving. As you are aware, some of our problems started before 1952 and since that date, no serious improvement took place until recent years. As for the solutions that were drawn up for them in the past, they were more like tranquilizers. As soon as the effect of these tranquilizers wore off, the problems returned and were as acute as before.

Mubarak commented on the belief of some people that the decision to replace Abu Ghazalah had come from the United States, especially since the change was made immediately after Mubarak's recent visit to Washington, during which he obtained permission to make this change, since Abu Ghazalah is considered one of America's men in Egypt.

Mubarak said: I have heard it said that Abu Ghazalah is America's man, so the president will not be able to replace him. After I returned from Washington, I heard what you have just told me, with the addition that I received the green light from Wasington to do what I did. I do not receive red, green, or any other lights from anyone. Nor do I like to hear such a thing from any friendly or unfriendly state. My decisions are governed by the Egyptian public interest, the interests of my country Egypt. We put Egypt's interest first wherever it might lie. The defense minister occupied his post for 9 years. The national interest required that he be in another position and that someone else take his place. The matter is as simple as that.

There was no red or green light. The change was effected in order to move toward improvement and to avoid keeping people in their positions for too long. Besides, it is the head of the state who implemented this measure. Why? Because he is the responsible figure and people turn to him in all cases, whether right or wrong. He is at the helm and the responsibility is his. In the case of nations such as ours he bears full responsibility. When bread disappears from the market, people ask: Where is the president, as if the president was holding the bread on a rope.

The president added: We now have constitutional institutions and a system, and whenever something wrong happens the people are accustomed to asking the president and referring to him. My role in this respect is to follow up any shortcoming in any direction. This is my preoccupation all day long, beginning in the early hours of the morning.

After all this, someone comes out and says that the president received the green light from America. Had we received any light from America, as some say, this light would have shone before we announced it and the news would have spread. As I have said, my decisions are governed by Egypt's interests. They stem from the national interest and are made in broad daylight.

Mubarak was asked about reports that the change in Abu Ghazalah's position constitutes a new stage and reflects the fact that the institutions are well established and that the World Bank asked that the defense minister be changed because he overspent on the Army to the point where he placed a burden on the budget. President Mubarak said that the defense minister did not overspend on the Army, as claimed. There is a prepared budget, and the Army budget is modest and set within limits. Neither the World Bank nor the IMF spoke to me about this issue, he said. Neither of these bodies are a part of our national issues and this talk is groundless.

President Mubarak denied that Abu Ghazalah's position was changed after some shortcoming was discovered in the Army. He said: I make new appointements so that ideas, activities, and control may change. Everything new has its own momentum and movement. The Army needs constant

movement. In the United States, changes occur continually. Some change was supposed to take place in Egypt with the formation of a new cabinet, but we had other priorities. Even in Israel, with which we had an experience of war, changes occur every 3 or 4 years.

All countries in the world have the same traditions. They always make changes in appointements and figures. The change of a defense minister is normal and must occur every now and then. An Armed Forces commander is changed every 4 years according to the provisions of the law, and if his term is extended, it must be by a presidential decree. The purpose of any change is to create continuing activity and to keep the Army at a suitable level so that it is ready to defend the country.

Mubarak stressed that Egypt is a state of institutions and that changing a minister occurs here as in any democratic and advanced country. Egypt is a big country and is a state of institutions. He emphasized that a change in Egypt may now involve any minister without any risks as long as the change is intended to serve the public interest. He said that a change in a dictator's regime may be a formidable measure and cause upheavals. A dictator might find himself in a state of nervous tension because he would not know where his decision would lead him.

He noted that we are now in a state of institutions and not a dictatorship and that the president of the Republic in Egypt is exposed to criticism. Mubarak wondered where this happens. It happens in democratic countries. We have no reservations about this democratic practice and freedom other than protecting the people's dignity. If anyone wants to criticize a public figure, he may do so, but must not involve this person's sons, wife, or brothers.

There are laws and traditions protecting the people's dignity, even in the oldest democratic countries. All we want is to safeguard the people's dignity, otherwise, democracy and freedom are safety valves in Egypt. It is democracy and freedom that established our state of institutions and political stability. He said: When the press or other media discuss the wife of any official, or an official himself, without evidence, I consider this to be slander and disgrace. We want to keep away from such practices in order to further develop and polish our democracy.

Asked about the reason for choosing General Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib to replace Abu Ghazalah, President Mubarak said: If I chose Ahmad al-Jarallah, they would ask why I chose Ahmad al-Jarallah. They would ask the same question. You could ask me the same question about personnel changes in ministries other than the Defense Ministry. You could ask me why I chose Safwat al-Sharif as information minister.

As someone in authority, I have my personal evaluation of those whom I choose. I also have certain calculations. Every post has specifications which might or might not suit this person. Of course, if we had brought to the Defense Ministry anyone other than Abu Talib, I would be asked the same question: Why did you choose this person?

The president affirmed: The evaluation of people is based on principles which I am convinced of and my conscience is clear about. He noted that the new defense minister is a military man who commands respect and has seniority in the Armed Forces. He also has a military history. He is an organized and meticulous commander. He said: I nominated him as governor of northern Sinai, and then appointed him as minister. I chose him as governor to deal with the problems of Cairo, and he succeeded. All of these tasks were difficult.

Asked why the defense minister is the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, President Mubarak said: He is defense minister, war production minister, and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, because he cannot be defense minister and not become commander in chief.

The president said that the law dictates that the defense minister should also be commander in chief, referring in this regard to the law which was issued in 1968 concerning the Army.

Answering a question about the loss which could result from Abu Talib's leaving his post as governor of Cairo, the president said: I am making strict calculations regarding this matter. When I brought Abu Talib to the Army, I made my calculations. The man must be up to the post. A new person will now face his responsibilities. Sometimes there are priorities which involve many considerations.

Mubarak was asked about the rumor that the change of Abu Ghazalah's post increases the power of the presidency. Mubarak stressed that the president is the president in a state like Egypt. Moreover, he is the responsible figure who makes the changes required by the public interest. He said: When the change occurred, I heard so much talk and was asked a great many questions by the Gulf countries and other countries, because they are not accustomed to such decisions. My answer to these queries was that what happened here was a normal thing and that Egypt is a big country and a state of institutions.

He stressed that we are not affected by such rumors because we mirror these organized institutions which are not moved by emotions. He said that the presidency in Egypt is no longer a post of high status or prestige but a post that entails constant hard work. (The president laughed) It is the legal detention of the president by the Republic. The president has to work and has nothing to do but to work.

Asked about any possible reaction by the Armed Forces to the decision to replace Abu Ghazalah, President Mubarak said: I have announced the decision and I repeat that it is an ordinary matter. Once again I repeat

that ours is a state of institutions. The decision was issued at 1030 in the morning; I entrusted the former defense minister with another duty and he left for Iraq after that. Everything went normally. Our brothers in the Armed Forces received the news like any other regular constitutional institution.

The president stated: It appears that you are the ones who have made a big issue of the decision. As far as we are concerned, it is no more that a little story [haddutah]. That morning, I did my daily exercise and then announced the decision. Everything was normal. All that I did on that day was begin following up your analysis, you journalists, and your rumors, including the questions you have put to me—questions with which we are amusing ourselves, as you see.

The strange thing is that there are some who believe these rumors. At this point, I want to emphasize one point; namely, we do not do anything unless we are convinced of it. We listen to counsel, advice, rumors, and analyses, but personal conviction and the national interest are what decide the matter as far as I am concerned.

It was put to Mubarak that there are those who regard Abu Ghazalah as America's man in Egypt and consider that the president is therefore incapable of removing or shifting him. President Mubarak replied that states have policies, and not one state in the world relies on a single individual to implement its policies, whether that state is America or any other.

An individual is mortal; he may go at any time; he is bound to die. Therefore, it is a mistake to entertain such thoughts. America is a great power and I do not believe that it relies on individuals to carry out its policy, at least in its relations with others. Policy belongs to states, and no state relies on one single person in its relations because that means that the fate of its relations depends on that person.

Asked how Abu Ghazalah received the decision appointing him to his new post, President Mubarak said that Abu Ghazalah is a disciplined man and he is my colleague. We told him: This is your new post. He responded to the appointment normally and on the following day he went on an official mission I entrusted him with. As far as I am concerned, I bear no grudges against anyone. Even when I completely relieve someone of his post, that does not mean that there is hatred between us or that we quarrel. We might assign other tasks and find a new place for the person whom we relieve of his post.

The president said: I do not link personal emotions with business. The results of a person's actions are the basis of decision. Interest is one thing and personal relationship is another. I have pensioned off very dear friends because they were not working effectively. As far as I am concerned, good work is one thing and friendship is another. I differentiate between the two.

To a remark that there are those who accuse the government of being slow to act and slow to understand, the president said: If we had a government that acted quickly, it would be criticized for being over hasty and unjustifiably whizzing about like a rocket. The problem does not lie in slowness and lack of understanding but in the extent of the work. The government has a huge amount of work before it.

We are now addressing problems that have existed since 1906. Real efforts to solve these problems in a radical manner began in the eighties. Before that, tranquilizers were administered to these problems. Take the Cairo sewers, for example. These sewers have been repaired or improved only once since 1906. As you are aware, the sewer problem is now being resolved. The drainage situation has changed much and a great deal has been spent on sewer repair. Imagine, from 1906 to 1982, no real repairs were made to the Cairo sewers, whereas during the past 6 years approximately 4 billion pounds have been spent on them.

The president indicated that some things may have proceeded slowly, but given the amount of work to be done, the government is carrying out major tasks even if it is said to be moving slowly.

Mubarak Cited on Recent Military Changes

NC1904120989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 19 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has asserted that the purpose of the recent military changes is to bring new blood and new thoughts into the Armed Forces. He said: I sensed the need for someone who can help me shoulder the tasks of the president, and Abu Ghazalah has many abilities which would alleviate some of my burdens.

President Mubarak added that his choice of Major General Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib for the position of defense minister was based on the fact that he is one of the most senior and efficient military officers, in addition to his organized way of thinking and his belief in discipline.

These statements were made in an interview which President Mubarak granted to Makram Muhammad Ahmad, AL-MUSAWWAR editor in chief, to be published after tomorrow, Friday.

In the interview, President Mubarak touched on a number of foreign and domestic issues.

In response to a question on the arrival of the IMF delegation in Cairo, President Mubarak expressed his hope that this time the IMF will be more understanding of

Egypt's problems. He added: This is what I expect, particularly after my trip to the United States. I explained all the dimensions of our economic problems in the United States; what concerns me is an accord with the IMF so that we can reach a new agreement on rescheduling the installments of our debts due in 1988-1989.

President Mubarak added: Egypt needs economic reform and we have already begun implementing an integrated reform program that maintains the balance of our march and social stability. He pointed out that the crux of Egypt's economic problem is the debts issue. Most of these debts resulted from expenditure on renovating the infrastructure, which was worn out because no one over the past 60 years made any real effort to maintain or develop it.

He said: In order to reach an agreement on rescheduling the debts, we must first reach an agreement with the IMF on certain steps in the economic reforms. The IMF is demanding that the budget deficit be reduced by 6 billion [currency not specified] but I believe we can reach a compromise, a procedural solution, and other material solutions. The IMF is asking for an increase in the interest rate on savings and we are ready to increase the rate by a reasonable amount. The IMF is asking for a new rate for certain customs duties and I believe that we can reach a solution that will not lead to an increase in the prices of imported commodities.

On Arab-Egyptian economic cooperation and the visits of Shaykh Zayid and King Fahd, President Mubarak stressed that economic cooperation is only one aspect of Egyptian-Arab ties. There are shared security interests and fraternal ties that have cultural and historical roots. We have a common destiny and we should agree on the supreme pan-Arab interests that must be above any differences.

In answer to another question, President Mubarak said that the countries of the quadripartite group clearly defined their stand when King Husayn declared in Cairo that these countries would not participate in any Arab summit not attended by Egypt. I believe that King Fahd and the Gulf countries share this stand, he said. He affirmed that Egypt supports the convening of an Arab summit as soon as possible. It is obvious that the current Arab circumstances necessitate the convening of an Arab summit at least once a year, or even every 6 months, particularly in view of the Lebanese situation.

Mubarak stressed that the continuing deterioration of the situation in Lebanon is the responsibility of the Arabs, who have persisted in their impotent silence. No one can ignore the fact that the Lebanese problem is one of the side effects of the Middle East crisis. He maintained that a speedy settlement to the Middle East issue will bring about a solution to the Lebanese problem.

President Mubarak To Visit Saudi Arabia in May

NC1904113489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1044 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 19 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stated that he will visit Saudi Arabia after 'Id al-Fitr at the invitation of his Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques.

This came in an interview the president granted to Makram Muhammad Ahmad, AL-MUSAWWAR editor in chief, to be published on Friday [21 April].

In the interview, President Mubarak said he did not raise the issue of loans, assistance, or the like with King Fahd during his recent visit to Egypt. He added: We discussed central, important issues, as well as the need for Arab solidarity and economic cooperation in fields that would benefit both Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

President Mubarak pointed out that the joint committees will begin their meetings after Ramadan.

Mubarak Receives Saudi King's Message 19 Apr

NC1904150389 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] President Husni Mubarak today received an oral message from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, within the framework of coordination and continuous consultations between the two countries.

Sayyid Qasim al-Masri, Egypt's ambassador to Saudi Arabia, handed the message to Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Before leaving Riyadh Al-Masri had met with Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi Foreign Minister.

Ambassador al-Qasim will leave Cairo for Riyadh today to deliver a message to King Fahd from President Mubarak.

Editorial Comments on Abu Ghazalah Appointment

PM1904133989 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Apr 89 p 11

[Editorial: "Meaning of Change in Egypt"]

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's decision to appoint Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah assistant to the president of the republic and Yusuf Abu Talib defense minister is considered to be one of the most important decisions President Mubarak has ever made since he assumed power following the reviewing stand incident in October 1981.

The position of defense minister is of special importance in Egypt and elsewhere. But in most cases the Egyptian Defense Ministry has always been an element complementary to the constitutional institutions' role and a

principal pillar in implementing and backing foreign policies. This is in addition to its role in building, construction, and internal development.

It was the Egyptian Army which spearheaded the shift in the October war in the interests of both the Arabs and Egypt. It has also played a vital role in backing stability and security.

From all this emanates the importance of the defense minister position, which Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah has occupied for many years, both during President Anwar al-Sadat's rule and then during 8 years of President Mubarak's rule.

The importance of the change today lies in the fact that it proves that President Husni Mubarak is the first and last player in Egyptian politics. Mubarak—without any fuss or clamor, but, instead, through silent profoundness characterized by vitality and simplicity—has proven that he is a politician who exercises a great amount of professionalism and skill in running his country's affairs in the most difficult circumstances.

Undoubtedly President Mubarak's era has been characterized by a great deal of calm and stability as well as by an acceptable degree of firmness against terrorism and extremism, in addition to his role in handling Egypt's Arab status in a manner that has led to Egypt's return to the Arab and Islamic folds and enabled it to restore its natural past, present, and future position.

Had it not been for Egypt's great help in this regard, the difficulties would not have been ironed out and the ice would not have melted between Egypt and its sisters. This is in addition to the flexible political spirit based on respect for brothers and perpetuation of noble stances, as well as the spirit of the Egyptian initiatives reflected in more than one pan-Arab stand.

Undoubtedly the success achieved in Cairo's Arab relations means the success of the way in which President Husni Mubarak runs his country's affairs for the sake of Egypt's interests and progress, and the concentration on the spirit of cleanliness and respect for the law by everyone, big and small.

That success would not have been achieved had it not been for the fact that there was only one skillful player who acted at the right time and moment and hit the target when needed—something which President Husni Mubarak reflected in this change which carries more than one meaning.

Al-Fayyum Prosecution Continues Suspect Search

JN1904152789 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 17 Apr 89 p 1

[By Fikriyah Ahmad and Ahmad al-Jubayli]

[Text] The search campaigns of the villages near the village of Al-Jarfas [name as received] in Al-Fayyum continued to find the rest of the suspects in the incident in which explosives were hurled from the Ibshaway train last week. Security forces spread out in cars to surround the villages and arrest suspects. Ten other followers of Dr 'Umar 'Abd al-Rahman, the prince of the Islamic group, were arrested. The Ministry of Interior issued a decision to arrest 23 suspects before the prosecution ends its investigations with them.

Al-Fayyum Prosecutor Usamah Qandil heard yesterday the ideas of Muhammad 'Ali al-Najjar who was arrested the day before yesterday on the Ibshaway train. Secret investigations claimed that he was behind the incident of throwing the explosives from the Ibshaway train. The defendent denied any connection with the incident and the material evidence. The prosecution's investigations continue with the rest of the defendents recently arrested.

Nine of the defendents in the last incidents, submitted a request to Chief Prosecutor Usamah Qandil that they be examined by the forensic medical examiner to prove that they were attacked by the police and injured seriously during the incidents. Consultant Mahmud al-Sharbasi decided to deputize the forensic doctor to examine them. AL-WAFD has learned that the medical report of Dr 'Umar 'Abd al-Rahman revealed that there were no external injuries. Reports proved that seven defendants were injured.

They are: Slamah Mu'awwad Ahmad, 'Ali Muhammad Sayyid Khatir, Al-Husayni 'Anan, Ramadan Muhammad Salih, 'Asim Imam Harun, Nada al-Sayyid 'Abdallah, and Anwar Dasuqi 'Abd al-Qiwa. Medical reports confirmed that the defendants were injured when they bashed into a solid mass. Their injuries happened at the same time as the incidents. Al-Fayyum Deputy Prosecutors Mamduh Budayr, 'Abd al-Rahman Marzuq, and Hisham Anwar still continue their investigations with the defendants. Dr 'Umar 'Abd al-Rahman is under very heavy guard in Al-Fayyum prison.

Government Bread Control Decreases Bakery Crowds

JN1904154189 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 17 Apr 89 p 2

[Text] The phenomenon of crowds outside the bakeries in the cities and villages of Al-Buhayrah governorate has disappeared after the governorate tightened control on bakeries to guarantee the use of all the flour amounts alloted to bakeries and to avoid leakage and trading of flour on the black market.

All bakeries are functioning at full capacity and are regularly inspected. The supply inspectors are available at all times to monitor production of all allotments. The operations of distributing bread and producing it have been separated from each other in six centers of the governorate's departments by forming kiosks for receiving the bakeries' bread allotments and presenting them to the public directly.

Government Policy Criticized

JN1904175689 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 17 Apr 89 p 3

["Opinion" column by Muhammad 'Asfur: "Anyone Who Does Not Lose His Life in the Bread Queue Can Lose His Freedom"]

[Text] When a citizen dies in a bread queue, and when people lose their freedom because they protested the rise in the price of bread and the suffering required to obtain it, what is the appropriate description for such a society and the system ruling it? The opposition papers have published some aspects of the tragedies of the daily commodities supply crisis.

However, what AL-AHALI, in its 12 April edition, published on its front and back pages will undoubtedly touch the emotions of the cold-hearted. On page 1, it published, under the headline "Because of Bread, a Citizen Lost His Life," the following: The citizen Muhammad 'Abd al-Mun'im in the village of Abu Janshu in Al-Fayyum lost his life while buying bread from the only bakery in the village. This citizen had gone to the bakery to buy some bread. However, he fell due to the long queue and long wait. The other citizens were unable to lift him up until much later. He died after having been transferred to the Ibshaway General Hospital.

On the last page of the same issue of AL-AHALI, Dr Rif'at al-Sa'id wrote under the headline "The Bread Section:" In celebrating the month of Ramadan along the government's lines, it was decided to dedicate a whole section of the Abi Zu'bul prison called the bread section. It is specially set up not for those who steal the bread from the mouths of our children but for those detained due to the bread crisis. The ward includes not only political strugglers for the people's right to a bit of bread but also strugglers of a different nature who stood by the simple people in defense of their bread. They called on people to sign petitions demanding that the price of bread remain two piasters. They were arrested in accordance with the emergency law.

However, the bread ward in the Abi Zu'bul prison does not include only those considered political troublemakers by the regime, but also includes average people whose unforgivable crime was to complain or show open discontent.

Dr Sa'id gave some examples: A simple man woke up tired just before dawn to catch the bread queue. He stood in line for hours. The time came for him to go to work. However, his children had not yet had breakfast. He became confused as to whether he should wait for the children's bread or go to work. He screamed in anger at the top of his voice, so the arrested man carried out a simple mental calculation. He added, subtracted, and multiplied the number of mouths, the number of meals, five piasters per loaf of bread, and how much of his salary is left. He also screamed out of fear and was arrested. And the same happened to a second and a third.

There are other sad incidents in which a citizen kills his brother for a place in the queue of humiliation. Therefore, if a citizen does not lose his life or freedom in the bread queue, he definitely loses his dignity and humanity. How can we describe the ruling regime, which has failed even to provide the citizen with a loaf of bread with dignity?

There are many questions: How has Egypt—the ancient agricultural country and historic wheat warehouse of all the ancient empires—started to import three-quarters of each loaf? How has it reached the stage at which it receives aid and donations of wheat from Saudi Arabia, just as it receives sacrificial meat for religious purposes from it? How does this regime allow bakeries to squander quality flour in making cakes and cookies (to set up a class overflowing with wealth) while there is a great shortage of the bread that is considered the staple food for millions of people?

What a joke it is that the Ministry of Supply continues to exist when there is no war, since such ministries are set up during wartime, just as the commodities supply crisis continues without a war? If the supply crises represent some of the symptoms of the chronic problems of an incompetent economic policy, how can the provocative behavior of the rulers of this country be explained? Why are they accepting the second-hand clothes of a parasitical class, which gathered its wealth through theft, robbery, and escapes, and wrenched the bite out of the mouths of the hungry, and why are they giving them priority in the feasts, discos, and cabarets?

However, the regime defends the course of these foreigners with the excuse that they respect personal freedom and freedom of profit (whether it is possible or not to list these crimes under the heading of these two liberties is another issue) so long as they abide by the law (as the faithful president said) where in actual fact they do not. If it is possible to turn a blind eye to incompetence in spending private money, how can we turn a blind eye to incompetent public spending?

Soviet Envoy Cited After Meeting With Ghali

NC1904160089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1152 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 19 Apr (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, received Soviet Ambassador in Cairo Gennadiy Zhuravlev today.

Following the meeting, the Soviet ambassador stated that the new session of the joint Egyptian-Soviet committee will begin in Cairo on 10 May, and will be cochaired by Economy Minister Dr Yusri Mustafa and Konstantin Katushev, Soviet minister for economic relations.

The ambassador added that the committee will discuss prospects for economic and trade cooperation between the two countries, and will determine the joint projects

to be carried out in the coming stage, particularly energy projects, the establishment of a power plant in 'Uyun Musa, and the expansion and modernization of iron and steel factories.

The committee will also consider a long-term Soviet loan to Egypt to finance heavy industry projects.

The Soviet ambassador added that the two countries have agreed to issue a book on Egyptian-Soviet relations in 1993, to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of relations between the two countries.

Editorial Praises Washington's 'Brave Stands'

JN1904163389 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 17 Apr 89 p 7

[Editorial: "Whose Terrorism?"]

[Text] The Bethlehem massacre, in which the Israeli border guard forces—known for their brutality—attacked defenseless people while they were having their pre-dawn Ramadan breakfast, coincides with the U.S. State Department report absolving the PLO of the stigma of terrorism. This certificate can divert attention from the aggrieved PLO to the real criminal who was caught red-handed using terrorism.

The American report is considered a new addition to the account of the brave stands in which Washington has championed the rights of people regardless of who they are. The report is a reiteration that the Bush administration represents American principles and insists on abiding by them regardless of their contradiction to the desires of allies and friends. The Bush administration is clearly and firmly reviving the principles of American heritage in a short period of time—that is, since Bush assumed power.

The U.S. State Department report came, in the wake of Shamir's Washington visit, as a deadly blow to all the desperate attempts, over many years, not only to stigmatize the PLO with terrorism but to make other non-Arab parties disavow the PLO and boycott it under the same charge. The objective is to maintain the occupation and to give the Israelis a free hand to oppress the West Bank and Gaza citizens.

Although the international community in general has not responded to Shamir's campaign against the PLO, Shamir continued to pin great hopes on Washington until he received a categorical and painful assertion: The PLO is not the only party innocent of committing terrorism, but also the intifadah. The practices of the Palestinian people in the occupied territory are a civil disobedience and massive rebellion through which the individuals have the right to express their viewpoints and attack the symbols of occupation—military and civilian targets—with stones and firebombs. And this description is similar to the viewpoint of the PLO which announced that these acts are a form of legitimate resistance and are not related to terrorism.

The report notes the nonexistence of an international definition of terrorism. At the same time, the report reiterates Washington's adherence to its defintion, which is implicitly accepted by the majority of countries—that is, terrorism is an act that is prepared in advance and is carried out by underground groups and organizations against civilian, nonmilitary targets to attract attention to political issues. However, we believe that this definition can also apply to regimes and governments that practice occupation terrorism against civilian installations and people who have no political goals.

Sudan

AFP: 7 Killed in Attack on UN Convoy 18 Apr

NC1904124189 Paris AFP in English 1225 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Nairobi, April 19 (AFP)—Seven people were killed Tuesday when a U.N. convoy carrying emergency food to south Sudan was attacked by rocket fire, a spokesman for the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) said here Wednesday. The 14-truck convoy was carrying about 120 tonnes of food as part of UNICEF's Operation Lifeline Sudan when the front vehicle came under attack from unknown assailants, suspected to be bandits, between Kapoeta and Torit in a rebel-held area. UNICEF spokesman Carlton James said those killed were part of an escort for the convoy, probably members of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

Rebels Warn of 'Imminent Attack' on Malakal

EA1904205389 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] forces of Bright Star campaign have completed mopping-up operations around Bor town. Remnants of the Bor force were pursued up to Jummayzah, 48 miles south of their way to Juba [as heard]. The SPLA was willing to give them free passage to Juba, but yesterday two patriotic soldiers among the fleeing enemy troops surrendered themselves and reported that the enemy commander at Terakeka across the river had promised to cross a force to the rescue of these remnants. As a result of this folly by the Terakeka commander, the Bright Star campaign commander gave orders to the pursuing forces to attack the remnants. Accordingly, the remnants were attacked and annihilated. None is expected to reach Juba.

Meanwhile, the official military spokesman of the SPLA, in a message to Radio SPLA today, warned the enemy convoy now at the canal mouth not to make a wrong move. The spokesman said an enemy convoy code-named Qabad al-Usud, meaning the grip of the lion, is stranded at the Sobat mouth. This convoy was destined to go and rescue Bor, but the spokesman said the capture of Bor has effectively canceled the mission of this so-called Qabad al-Usud. They are a rescue to nowhere.

The spokesman said SPLA forces were monitoring the activities of this force at the canal mouth from within seeing distance, and should the convoy make a wrong move it will be destroyed and its fate will be like that of ibn Walid with respect to Keyala, or Yarmuk and Al-Sayf al-Batir with respect to Torit.

In a related development, the official military spokesman of the SPLA has warned of an imminent attack on Malakal town within the next 96 hours, while the warning on Juba remains.

Foreign Minister on Peace Talks with SPLA

AB1904122189 London BBC World Service in English 0730 GMT 19 Apr 89

[From the "Network Africa" program]

[Text] Sudan's foreign minister, Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn, gave an interview to our correspondent, Bonny Mason, in Khartoum earlier this week. Whilst there may be optimism over food supplies going into the south of the country, the civil war is still raging there. The latest claim of the SPLA [Sudan People's Liberation Army] is that they've taken the southern garrison town of Bor just [word indistinct] kilometers north of Juba, and the pressure is now mounting on the government in Khartoum to take the initiative in reopening negotiations to end the war. Well the foreign minister is apparently expected to go to the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, soon for talks with the SPLA, so Bonny Mason asked him what the next move was going to be:

[Begin recording] [Al-Husayn] Now the ball is with the SPLA-SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement]. Now, on our side, we did everything, and also what we will do when we meet them is to discuss with them how to implement the clauses.

[Mason] Have you gone any further forward about whether the state of emergency should be lifted before the cease-fire or anything like that?

[Al-Husayn] Well, our delegation who conveyed to them [words indistinct] and this is also—the implementation means—is how to arrange these things. And as [words indistinct] we did this before in February 1989, we were in Addis as [word indistinct] delegation, and we discussed all these things. And thus, we agreed that after a week we would meet again. When we came back in the Sudan, political crisis engulfed us and we stayed here so, I don't expect that we have much to talk about when we meet them, because already we did this exercise, SPLA-SPLM and DUP [Democratic Unionist Party] so no problem at all. [sentence as heard] I think that as soon as ...

[Mason] What will happen first, the lifting of the state of emergency or the cease-fire?

[Al-Husayn] Well, this will coincide. It will be simultaneously. This, as we agreed, will come before and [words indistinct]. So this is the subject of discussion. But our delegation [words indistinct].

[Mason] I think that some people are wondering, in view of the military successes which the SPLA has had, whether they are now really serious about proceeding with the whole process in implementing a cease-fire. What is your impression of their intentions?

[Al-Husayn] I think, and according to my experience, and according to the meeting held with them since August 1988, I think they are very very serious about peace. This is what I feel, and this is what I am told. But also, I think they will not at all (?run) the risk of refusing to peace like this, the international opinion the public opinion. [sentence as heard] It is very difficult. [end recording]

Al-Mahdi Confers With Southern Representatives

LD1604223889 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi held a meeting at the general secretariat this afternoon with representatives of the southern parties. The participants agreed that announcing the formation of the southern council, as agreed by the southern parties, represents a first step. They also endorsed the structure of the southern regional governments and declared them to be in accordance with the agreed measures. The participants also agreed to incorporate southern parties which enjoyed support but were not represented in the Constituent Assembly.

The premier called on the southern parties to participate in public affairs within the framework of uniting the internal front and the unity of the national line. He stressed the need to concentrate on peace, relief, electoral laws, and defense.

Further Reports on Jimmy Carter's Visit

Meets With Council Members

EA1904131589 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] At midday today at the Republican Palace the chairman and members of the Head of State's Council met former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who is visiting Sudan in line with his tour to back relief efforts in some African countries.

The council reviewed Sudan's efforts to transport provisions and relief items to the southern part of the country and the steps taken to restore stability and comprehensive peace in the south.

In a press statement after the meeting, the former U.S. president said he and the international community were satisfied with the commencement of the relief operations.

Praises Peace Efforts

EA2004084089 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Apr (SUNA)—Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said the peace negotiations in Sudan were proceeding in an encouraging manner, particularly after the Sudanese Government made its latest proposals to John Garang's movement. In a statement today, the next step along the road towards peace, he added, consisted in the awaited reply of Garang's movement to the governments proposals. He expressed hope for an end to the war, which, he said, was continuing to create migrants and loss of life.

Carter added that the government and the movement [words indistinct] in any negotiations would be difficult [word indistinct] the two sides recognize each other and the existence of joint aims. He said he believed the southerners sought the establishment of a united homeland, as opposed to secession, and the provision of equality rights and religious freedom. He expressed the view that any lasting solution to the conflict in Sudan must lead to the establishment of peace and the stabilization of migrants and refugees. He said the relief aid which had begun reaching the victims remained, in spite of its importance, a temporary solution.

Mr Carter said his current tour of (?East) Africa would contribute towards bringing about a better understanding in the interests of peace, development, resolving human rights violations, and bolstering the provision of relief aid to this part of the continent. He said that following his return to Washington he would be reporting to U.S. President George Bush and the UN secretary general on the results of his tour.

Seeks Meeting With Garang

EA2004084589 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1405 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Khartoum 19 Apr (SUNA)—Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who is ending his visit to Sudan today, said that he will get in touch, in line with the peace efforts being made in Sudan and the region, with the Ethiopian leaders. He expressed the hope that he would meet the leaders of John Garang's movement in Addis Ababa during his visit to Ethiopia beginning today.

Carter told SUNA that today he held talks in Khartoum with Eritrean and Tigrayan representatives and leaders in the same context in a bid to find ways to bring an end to the Ethiopian-Eritrean war which has now continued for more than 27 years.

Carter stressed that the U.S. Administration was keen to see the peace efforts in Sudan succeed. He said he had sensed this during his meeting with U.S. President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker shortly before setting out from Washington on his current visit to Sudan.

Chadians Arrive To Discuss Border Incidents

EA1904203989 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1410 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Apr (SUNA)—[Word indistinct] a Chadian delegation arrived in Khartoum yesterday charged by the Chadian president, Hissein Habre, with making contacts with government officials on the nature of the recent events in Chad. The Sudanese delegation consists of Muhammad Nuri, the official in charge of foreign relations, while the Chadian delegation consists of Mawla Muhammad Said, Chad's ambassador designate to Sudan.

Tunisia

Baccouche Comments on Political Developments

PM1404151689 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 14 Apr 89 pp 22-23

[Interview with Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche by 'Afaf Zayn in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] AL-HAWADITH: President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali stated something to the effect that the opposition will not be absent from political action, despite its failure to enter the new parliament. In your opinion, on what basis will the opposition be included in the democratic process?

Hedi Baccouche: Democracy means the participation of fellow countrymen in determining the country's future and options. The developed states have a good record in the exercise of democracy, which is embodied in the participation of the active forces and political tendencies through various structures. We in Tunisia are heading in that direction.

Among the initiatives taken by the president after the 7 November transformation was to restructure the economic and social council, a consultative council which reviews all laws and plans before their submission to the Chamber of Deputies. The objective as to open that constitutional institution to all political, economic, and social tendencies.

Furthermore, the Constitutional Council has been established to examine the laws' consistency with the Constitution. This, in addition to the Supreme Islamic Council which includes leading influential scholars and clerics.

It must be pointed out that as well as creating structures and institutions to perpetuate the democratic process, the president is now maintaining a constant dialogue and consultations with representatives of all fields including various sensitive areas, proceeding from the fact that Tunisia depends on all its fellow countrymen.

I must say that the administration of public institutions and the major administrative responsibilities are open to all capable Tunisians, regardless of their political affiliations.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you believe that the institutions which you have mentioned will be able to replace the opposition in parliament?

Hedi Baccouche: We proposed to all the parties that signed the national charter that they contest the elections on joint lists. Our proposal proceeded from our desire to ensure the existence of various opposition voices in parliament, but some opposition parties rejected the proposal.

AL-HAWADITH: The Constitutional Democratic Rally's overwhelming victory in the parliamentary elections was expected. Do you believe that the present election law could provide an opportunity for deepening the concept of political pluralism, or do you believe that its amendment to include elements of the proportional system is essential in order to avoid a repetition of the unified parliament experiment?

Hedi Baccouche: Electoral law differs from one country to another according to the nature of each country's political and social system. So I would say that of the many systems, the proportional system could be appropriate in one country, but not in others.

In fact relying on that aspect alone in assessing the results of the recent elections does not give the opportunity to understand the election issue, in all its complexities and multifarious aspects.

Be that as it may, the electoral law, like any other law, applies to all political organizations without exception. It could benefit some of them today and weaken them tomorrow. Undoubtedly one of the advantages of the Tunisian system after the 7 November transformation is that it increases the strength of the forces, whether a party or a unified opposition.

The proportional system accentuates the characteristics of every political, social, or personal tendency, regardless of its principles, motives, or supporters. One thing must be stressed, namely, the need for all parties to provide more information for the citizens and to enhance their awareness so that our tireless efforts will perpetuate the democratic course and constantly drive it forward.

AL-HAWADITH: The general elections have shown that many of the secular political parties did not win the people's support, whereas the results show that the Islamic reform tendency is growing, despite the modest number of votes they scored. As an ideologist who fought for Tunisia's independence and participated in the Arab Maghreb struggle, how do you explain the dilemma facing the secular parties?

Hedi Baccouche: The Tunisian people belong to the Arab Islamic civilization. They adhere steadfastly to their identity. This adherence was displayed during the liberation struggle in which we engaged the French colonialists and in which Islam played a prime vanguard role. After 7 November, following a period of neglect, Islam emerged resplendent once more. But while we adhere to our roots and are proud of our affiliation, we are calling for an open society that seeks to acquire science and participate effectively in human civilization. This is why Tunisia is enthusiastically working to reconcile progressive requirements, the requirements of the age, with our Arab Islamic identity.

To say that this person is a secularist and that a fundamentalist is an unacceptable discrimination in Tunisia for the reasons I mentioned earlier. In all parties we find hardliners, moderates, intellectuals, and regrsssive elements.

So I say that the description you gave—which divides the Tunisian people into two groups, secularists and fundamentalists—is unsound.

Nevertheless, we oppose those who seek to monopolize Islam and we stress that the dispute is not religious, but over political programs such as development resources and economic and social options. But there is no possibility of a dispute over Islamic affiliation and its depth. We all are Muslims and the Islamic identity is deep-rooted within us. And Tunisia is an Islamic country, as stipulated in the Constitution.

AL-HAWADITH: Despite the Islamic tendency's failure to enter parliament, the election results shows that this tendency constitutes a social focus opposed to that of the Constitutional Democratic Rally. There are now two different social blueprints. How will these two blueprints coexist, and what factors will govern their coexistence?

Hedi Baccouche: The blueprint which the president presented to the Tunisian people is a complete civilization, economic, and social blueprint. During the election campaign we assumed the task of explaining the features and content of that blueprint.

On the other hand, the Constitutional Democratic Rally's rivals did not present voters with any complete programs based on facts or taking account of the country's situation, citizens' needs, or available resources. They did not present any clear views or ideas applicable to everyday life or ways of satisfying the citizens' aspirations.

AL-HAWADITH: Will parliament in its present form enable the other political parties to play their national role?

Hedi Baccouche: The application of true democracy has begun since the 7 November transformation. The historic statement which the president made to the Tunisian people on that day was the starting point of a reformist, democratic, pluralistic, progressive course, which is growing stronger by the day.

In his address to the people after the results of the recent presidential and legislative elections were announced the president reaffirmed his desire to pursue a democratic course and to include all active forces and political trends in it.

Undoubtedly the democratic climate will enable the political parties to intensify their activities so their inclinations can assume a practical form and they can participate more effectively and seriously in building tomorrow's Tunisia.

We are very anxious to overcome the present situation in which no party has presented a comprehensive social blueprint that can constitute a convincing and workable alternative to that adopted and implemented by the government under President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

AL-HAWADITH: Ever since the 7 November change, trends have given positive signs of a revival of the democratic climate in the greater Maghreb. Its influence was clear in Algeria and even the [Libyan] Jamahiriyah. What conferences will the Tunisia experiment produce at the Arab Maghreb level?

Hedi Baccouche: Internal reforms in Algeria and the positive developments witnessed in all the countries of the region toward adopting the democratic concept have strengthened the internal structure and front of every country, which is bound to result in the intellectual and political unity of every country. This unity is the mainstay of the Arab Maghreb Union.

Kuwait

Nawwaf Interviewed on National, Regional Defense

PM2004095289 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 14 Apr 89 p 17

[Unattributed interview with Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad "in his office at the Defense Ministry;" date not given]

[Text] AL-HAWADITH: What is your conception of a solution in Lebanon and of the six-man committee's role in it?

Shaykh Nawwaf: The earnest efforts of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah and his brothers in the six-man committee, who are anxious to end the Lebanese crisis, need support from our Lebanese brothers in the form of flexible cooperation with the committee. This is so the Lebanese people can extricate themselves from the difficult crisis they have suffered for 14 years and which has begun to assume multifaceted aspects as a result of foreign powers' interventions. All Arabs are sad to see the brothers in Lebanon fighting one another.

We hope that the earnest efforts—together with the Lebanese officials and citizens who care about their homeland's interests—will secure a formula acceptable to everyone. Unfortunately many feel that there are those who do not want the situation in their country to stabilize, for the sake of their own interests. But the sincere Lebanese citizen must cooperate with the six-man committee with all his capabilities and energy in order to extricate Lebanon from the whirlpool in which it finds itself.

I am sure there is a positive atmosphere with a view to ending the crisis in the near future, God willing. And a country such as Lebanon must not become a place for infighting and the pursuit of vested interests.

We Gulf people consider ourselves a group concerned with the Lebanese problem because we have been denied Lebanon. And I say frankly that there is no replacement for that hospitable and beautiful country in terms of the quality of its land and the kindness of its people.

AL-HAWADITH: If it is decided to send an Arab contingent to guarantee a cease-fire, will Kuwait be ready to send its forces?

Shaykh Nawwaf: When the Arab League Council, with its kings and presidents, convenes and decides to send forces, Kuwait, will of course respond to the request without hesitation. This is because it is our duty as Kuwaitis to work and cooperate with our Arab brothers to end the crisis. Of course Kuwait's pan-Arab stances are well known, and it has always been quick to provide any help to any state, as happened in Sinai and the Golan Heights.

AL-HAWADITH: The Arab Cooperation Council and the greater Maghreb Union were established after the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]. Do you believe that these two unions, in addition to the GCC, constitute a major military entity for the Arab states.?

Shaykh Nawwaf: We hope that such councils will strengthen and enhance Arab unity, thus strengthening the Arab position. I hope that the Arab states will establish groupings and work as one to strengthen the Arab position.

AL-HAWADITH: Has the military presence through the Peninsula Shield [Force] provided the desired guarantee in terms of strengthening Gulf Arab defenses?

Shaykh Nawwaf: It is an organizational matter. It was set up by the GCC to defend any state, if attacked, God forbid. And that shield is at the disposal of any state seeking help.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you have any rapid deployment forces?

Shaykh Nawwaf: Yes, we have. We can deploy them at any time, within hours of a request for help. Their deployment is effective and has been tested.

AL-HAWADITH: With regard to joint Arab defense, has it been endorsed both in principle and in practice?

Shaykh Nawwaf: No. It is currently frozen.

AL-HAWADITH: What about the Gulf military industry?

Shaykh Nawwaf: We are in the process of conducting a complete study with a view to manufacturing small arms, ammunition, and so on. If we succeed, we will consider something larger.

AL-HAWADITH: Does Kuwait want the GCC states and the Soviet Union to establish relation Union? What is the status of your military cooperation with the Soviets?

Shaykh Nawwaf: True, some Gulf states have begun to make contacts with the Soviet Union within the framework of strong and good relations. Of course, Kuwait only performs a fraternal helping role.

If Kuwait needs Soviet military equipment suited to the Kuwaiti Army and to the nature of our territory and climate, nothing will prevent our importing the needed equipment. In our armament policy we rely on numerous sources. We always choose the best, provided it suits the nature of our territory and our Army. We import arms without conditions or a contract.

AL-HAWADITH: It has been said that the Defense Ministry is in the process of setting up a reserve army. Is this matter still being considered, or has it already been put into effect?

Shaykh Nawwaf: It is not a reserve army but, rather, a brigade comprising those recruited within the framework of national service.

AL-HAWADITH: What about the military college and the extent of the officers' and the military's interest in it?

Shaykh Nawwaf: We certainly devote much attention to that college, and we are now in the process of building a large college in order to accommodate the numbers required. We are also in the process of studying a new plan to enable student officers to graduate after 3 and ½ years instead of 2 as of next year, God willing.

AL-HAWADITH: Is the establishment of an Air Force college being considered?

Shaykh Nawwaf: The GCC has distributed these colleges among the states, and we are anxious that the colleges be established at the GCC level, not the state level.

AL-HAWADITH: Kuwait is a seaboard state but has no naval college. Has such a college been established at the GCC level?

Shaykh Nawwaf: So far that has not happened. It is a necessity for both Kuwait and the GCC states.

AL-HAWADITH: Is there any plan to revive the joint Arab defense council, especially in view of the constant Israeli threat to the Arabs?

Shaykh Nawwaf: Certainly our Arab solidarity has a major role to play and is bound to constitute a huge force that would prevent Israel or other forces from opening any breaches in the united Arab ranks.

We must confront our real defense position without recourse to amiability and fine talk. If we remain weak—that is, in terms of our forces and decisionmaking capability—anyone with designs on Arab territory and its resources and strategic position will be able to disrupt our societies and cause a breach in our unity.

KUNA: Link With Rushdie's Publishers Denied

LD1804150589 Kuwait KUNA in Engish 1310 GMT 18 Apr 89

[By Hosni Emam]

[Text] London, April 18 (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti Embassy here denied Tuesday any link between the Kuwait Investment Office and the Penguin and Viking publishing houses, which published Salman Rushdie's Satanic Verses.

An embassy spokesman told KUNA that the embassy had received inquiries on the truth of some allegations claiming that Kuwait owns some shares in the two said companies.

The spokesman said that to clear the truth of the situation, the embassy has sent representatives to the meeting of the Work Committee for Muslims Affairs, formed to deal with the book, which smears the reputation of Islam and hurts the feelings of Muslims worldwide. The committee comprises representatives of Islamic communities in Britain.

The Kuwaiti representatives at the meeting will reveal the fact that Penguin and Viking are completely owned by the Pearson British Company (PLC) and Kuwait never owned of this company's shares at any time. [sentence as received]

Also, on March 8, 1989, the Kuwaiti Information Ministry barred all of Rushdie's books and that Kuwait adheres to what is agreed upon by Islamic states in this respect.

He said members of the committee promised to relay these facts to their communities and thanked the embassy for its cooperation.

PDRY

Iraq's Ramadan Arrives for Committee Meetings

JN1904191089 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, arrived in Aden today on a visit of several days to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY].

In an arrival statement, Taha Yasin Ramadan said that this visit comes within the framework of consultations between officials of the two countries with the aim of creating a common understanding to serve the interests of the peoples of the two countries. He added: The Joint Iraqi-PDRY Committee for Economic, Trade, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation will hold its first meeting during this visit to lay down strong foundations for comprehensive bilateral cooperation in keeping with the common interests of both countires.

Taha Yasin Ramadan is accompanied by a delegation comprising Muhammad Mahdi Salih, trade minister and head of the Iraqi side to the Joint Iraqi-PDRY Committee; the Foreign Ministry undersecretary; and a number of officials from the Ministries of Transport and Communications, Trade, Agriculture and Irrigation, Industry and Military Industrialization, and Finance.

Saudi Arabia

Kingdom Denies Aiding Afghan Rebel Fight

LD1904213389 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1855 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Riyadh, 19 Apr (SPA)—A responsible source has denied a report carried by REUTER yesterday, Tuesday, 18 April 1989, quoting an official from the Soviet Embassy in Washington that there are experts from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia helping the Afghan mujahidin in their war to topple the Kabul government, and accusing the Kingdom's government of being gravely involved in helping the mujahidin.

To this effect, a responsible source told SPA today: While strongly denying this, the Kingdom regrets such random accusations on the part of the Soviet Union made through Oleg Darkhovskiy, counsellor for Afghan affairs at the Soviet Embassy in Washington.

The responsible source further said: As far as assistance is concerned, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has never hidden its assistance, which is confined to humanitarian, medical, and food aid to the Afghan mujahidin. It has always publicized this assistance, proceeding from its Islamic duties toward the fraternal Afghan people to recover its freedom, dignity, and independence.

The source has affirmed that world public opinion and the international community know very well that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is adopting a known international principle which accords with its Islamic line: Noninterference in the internal affairs of any state, as much as it does not allow anyone to interfere in its own domestic affairs.

Council of Ministers Views Lebanese Situation

LD1804115789 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Excerpt] King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, presided over the session held by the Council of Ministers yesterday, Monday, 17 April, in the evening in Al-Yamamah Palace in Riyad.

After the session, Information Minister Mr 'Ali al-Sha'ir gave SPA a statement in which he said:

With the King's directives, at the beginning of the session the council listened to a comprehensive report about the most prominent new events in the Arab region. The council listened with extreme concern to the regretable continuing developments of the fighting situation in the Lebanese arena in spite of all the appeals and attempts exerted by the various quarters to end the fighting.

In this concern, the custodian to the two holy mosques pointed out to the council that the Saudi Government is still following up with continuing interest the efforts made by the six-man Arab committee for containing the recent escalations between the conflicting sides. He expressed his hopes that these efforts would lead to the intended results and restore stability and peace to Lebanon and enable it to practice its constitutional rights by choosing the leadership that would is satisfactory to the Lebanese people.

The council renewed its appeal to the conflicting Lebanese sides, whether they were military or civilian, to work quickly toward ending the fighting and enabling the exerted efforts to find firm solutions for the painful Lebanese tragedy. [passage omitted]

Editorial Underscores Kingdom's 'Peaceful Trend'

JN1804135589 Al-Damam AL-YAWM in Arabic 16 Apr 89 p 3

[Editorial: "The Kingdom and Nuclear Weapons"]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush has denied that the Kingdom possesses nuclear, chemical, or biological warfare weapons. He also denied its possession of installations for the production of such weapons.

This denial comes at a time when there is a feverish race among most world nations to secretly or publicly possess such weapons and the means of their production. In fact, the race has involved the main producers of these weapons among the big powers who are now trying to develop the technology of these weapons.

This proves and underscores the peaceful trend of the Kingdom as a true advocate of peace. The Kingdom, which has for a long time called and is still calling for resolving conflicts between nations through dialogue and negotiations, has set a good example by avoiding weapons which annihilate humanity. It has also adopted a clear policy in this respect, which is to possess only weapons that enable it to defend itself and its holy shrines and borders. So the Kingdom has avoided weapons of mass destruction.

Although it can afford such weapons, the Kingdom believes that it is its duty as an Islamic country to call for the resolution of international conflicts by peaceful means and through dialogue and to stay away from weapons of mass destruction and the means of their production. Its example must be followed by other nations, which although not as well off, compete for possession these destructive weapons, thereby abandoning the means of dialogue and peace and threatening the use of these destructive weapons.

The nonpossession of nuclear, chemical, and biological warfare weapons and the means of their production underlines the Kingdom's right to possess the weapons that enable it to defend its holy shrines and territories without being blamed by anyone for possessing such weapons because they are defensive and not offensive weapons. It

also underlines its right to obtain these weapons from any part of the world and in the manner it deems fit.

The Kingdom was among the first countries to sign the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. This proves that the Kingdom seeks world peace and believes that peace should prevail among all nations.

The Kingdom is not satisfied with avoiding such weapons. It also has warned the international community of their dangers on every occasion. It has called on the international community to make the world an oasis of peace by avoiding these means of destruction. It also reaffirms that world peace can only be achieved through dialogue.

Tariq 'Aziz Arrives in Geneva for Peace Talks

JN1904203189 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Geneva, 19 Apr (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived here today.

Tariq 'Aziz will head the Iraqi delegation to the new round of Iraq-Iran peace negotiations which will begin here tomorrow, Thursday.

Meets Perez de Cuellar 20 Apr

JN2004134589 Baghdad INA in English 1315 GMT 20 Apr 89

[Text] Geneva, Apr. 20, INA—Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy premier and foreign minister, the head of the Iraqi delegation to direct negotiations with Iran met today with Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar the U.N. secretary-general at 12:30 PM, Geneva time.

Information office of the U.N. permitted press and T.V. photographers and a small member of journalists to enter in the meeting room for one minute to snap shots and shoot films.

The U.N. delegation comprised Mr. Jean Eliasson the special representative of the secretary-general concerning the issues pertaining to implementation of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, director of the executive office of the secretary general, director of political affairs and director of legal affairs.

UN Chief's 20 Apr Activities

JN1904205889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2015 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Geneva, 19 Apr (INA)—It has been announced at the UN European Headquarters that UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar will meet separately with the Iraqi and Iranian foreign ministers prior to convening the first direct negotiations in the next round of talks, beginning tomorrow.

A spokesman for the Information Office of the UN European Headquarters said that Javier Perez de Cuellar will hold a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati at 1100 to be followed by a meeting with Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz at 1230, Geneva time.

The spokesman said that the talks will be preparatory working meetings to prepare for the first expanded session at 1615 tomorrow.

The General Secretariat of the UN European Headquarters arranged for an INA correspondent, an Iranian correspondent, an English-speaking correspondent, a French-speaking correspondent, and a Swiss radio correspondent to enter the conference hall in which the meeting between Javier Perez de Cuellar and Velayati will be held for 2 minutes and for the same team to attend [as received] the meeting to be held between the UN secretary general and Tariq 'Aziz.

Information Minister Urges Support for 'Awn

JN1504105189 Baghdad INA in English 0945 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 15, INA—Iraqi Minister of Culture and Information, Mr. Latif Nusayyif Jasim said that supporting the government of Michel 'Awn is a national and not only a patriotic issue.

In an analysis, published today by the Iraqi daily AL-THAWRAH, the minister said that demolishing the houses and killing the children and accusing an important part of the Lebanese people as an agent for "Israel" flow in a Zionist plan to implement the experience of dividing and partitioning on Lebanon and then to spread it in other Arab countries.

The minister said that the fragile situation in Lebanon makes the implementation of division in Lebanon possible. He added that the separation of this part from the Lebanese body would necessarily push the Muslims to demand their state and would push the Druze to demand theirs, and Syria will take a portion of Lebanon's territory and Khomeyni will establish his state in southern Lebanon.

He referred in this concern to a warning by President Saddam Husayn in 1975 in which he said that the Zionist entity will use Lebanon as a laboratory for sectarian states and if the experience succeeds in Lebanon it is expected that the same experience will be implemented in other Arab countries.

Mr. Jasim called on the Arab countries to work to get out the Syrian forces from Lebanon as soon as possible and by all means of pressure to foil the Zionist pretexts to remain in Lebanon and not to allow Hafiz al-Asad to expand his existence at the expense of Lebanon.

He said that carrying the weapons against the partitioning is a national duty to serve the Arab nation and a patriotic duty to protect Lebanon. The minister stressed that after the evacuation of the Syrian forces from Lebanon, the Lebanese people would be able to unify their capabilities and ranks and would elect their president freely away from the Syrian terrorism and thus Lebanon would be unified and the experience of partioning in Lebanon would come to an end like the Khomeynist experience in the eastern flank of the Arab homeland to sweep and divide Iraq had come to an end.

The Iraqi minister added that the most important thing that the Lebanese should understand, as President Saddam Husayn said, Christians and Muslims that there is no victor and no defeated for the sake of Lebanon's safety and the solution should be in the hands of the Lebanese themselves.

Mr. Jasim said that Hafiz al-Asad had played a dirty game in Lebanon and continued playing with it throughout the war period and that was fanning the fire of war by all means including entering the Khomeyni guards into Lebanon and Al-Biqa' to practise the sabotage role in dividing Lebanon into tiny cantons among Muslims, Christians, Druze, Zionists and Iranians.

He added that the Zionist entity had supported the Iranian regime with all elements of military, material, intelligence, psychological and information forces so as to achieve the dream of expansion, division and partitioning of the Arab homeland on sectarian basis.

He added that the phenomenon of partitioning into sectarian states had turned in two places into experience namely: The laboratory of Lebanon and the confrontation on the eastern flank of the Arab nation which was faced heroically and bravely by Iraq as the target was to divide Iraq into three small states.

He said that the Khomeynist phenomenon would had expanded to wider than Iraq if it had succeeded to sweep Iraq quickly to achieve the dream of Khomeyni to divide Iraq and to seize the Arab Peninsula and the Arab Gulf States up to Syria would not be safe from division into more than one tiny state, by the preparation of Hafiz al-Asad himself, and Egypt and Sudan are also included.

Mr. Jasim said that the Zionist dream to divide the Arab homeland has not come to an end by the defeat of the Iranian aggression on Iraq but it continued to divide Lebanon.

The minister added that the division plan is implemented by Hafiz al-Asad in Lebanon as he puts all his military and material weight to push one of the Lebanese factions by force outside the Arab nation although this faction has the legitimacy and they are the Christians represented by the Government of General 'Awn.

The minister stressed that the Zionist entity is also trying to exploit the phenomenon of defeated Khomeynism through failing to sign an agreement of comprehensive and permanent peace between Iraq and Iran.

He said that the campaign against Iraq in the international fora is a part of a Zionist phenomenon to achieve a strategic target to harm the Arab nation and its national security.

The minister said questions that require observation concerning what is raised by the information and political circles nowadays on Iraq and its policies and the method of its structure and adopting its democratic trend and the relation between the people and its historical leadership. [sentence as received]

He said that major newspapers and magazines which are related to the Zionist circles publish now and then that Iraq produces chemical weapons and use them and that Iraq produces germ weapons, Iraq is the country of dictatorship, Iraq is a closed country and the decision making in it is not known, democracy in Iraq is not right, the Kurds in Iraq are oppressed, Iraq faces Syria on Lebanon's territory and Iraq confronts Hafiz al-Asad through Michel 'Awn.

He said that these campaigns are part of a plan some of which is apparent and the other is hidden and it appears within the Zionist officials statements. He gave an example in this respect the statement by Yahev, [spelling as received] the Zionist strategist in which he said that the power of Iraq freezes the blood in the vessels and other statements which said that "Israel" does not hesitate to deal a blow to Iraq if it is certain that Iraq is making nuclear missiles. The most dangerous in [as received] the plan is the major target aiming at dividing the Arab nation and partitioning it into sectarian states.

Mr. Jasim said that the statements of the Zionists through the information circles would not affect Iraq and Iraq with its military and material capabilities is not like it had been in 1981 when "Israel" hit Tammuz nuclear reactor.

He said that the historical dilemma witnessed by the Zionist entity through the failure of the dream of partitioning and the outbreak of the Palestinian uprising, the establishment of the Palestinian state and the recognition of the world of this state as well as Iraq's victory in the great battle of liberation had made this entity seek for a central news item for the international press to cover up the dilemma and to divert the attention from the Zionists historical crisis.

Mr. Jasim stressed that the anti-Iraq campaign in the Zionist and international mass-media is because Iraq had found a new psychological state which is the strength of victory that made the Arabs everywhere ready to confront challenges with a spirit of victory, steadfastness and sacrifice.

'Aziz Confers With Ethiopian Official 15 Apr

JN1504121489 Baghdad INA in English 1135 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 15, INA—Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy premier and foreign minister met here today with Mr. Kasa Kebede, member of the Central Committee of the party of the working people in Ethiopia.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations between the two countries and means to improving them in all fields to serve their joint interests as well as to strengthen chance of peace and stability in the region and in the world.

The meeting tackled the situation in the African Horn. The two sides confirmed keenness on establishing relations based on mutual respect and desire to strengthen security and stability in the countries of that region.

Deputy Premier Ramadan leaves for Aden 19 Apr

JN1904113289 Baghdad INA in English 1000 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, Apr, INA—Member of the Revolution Command Council (RCC) and first deputy premier Taha Yasin Ramadan left for Aden this morning leading a delegation on a several-day official visit to Democratic Yemen Republic.

In a statement to INA Mr. Ramadan said he was carrying a message from President Saddam Husayn to President Hayder Abu Bakr al-'Attas of Democratic Yemen on relations between the two countries and developments of events on the Arab arena.

He added that the visit came in embodiment of the two countries' leaders desire for the necessity of exploring wide fields for cooperation to be a base for developed and advanced relations.

He expressed hope that the visit would contribute to consolidate relations between the two countries as there is the joint desire for developing them and leading them to an advanced and comprehensive level.

Mr. Ramadan elucidated that the Iraqi-Yemeni joint committee for economic, trade, scientific and technical cooperation would hold its first meeting during this visit to lay down broad foundations for comprehensive bilateral cooperation for the present and future stages.

The delegation accompanying the first deputy premier comprises Mr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih minister of trade and head of the Iraqi side in the Iraqi-Yemeni joint committee, the foreign undersecretary and a number of officials at the ministries of oil, trade, agriculture and irrigation, industry and military industrialization, transport and comunications and finance.

Relief Material Sent to PDRY Flood Victims

JN1804204489 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Iraq has sent 50 tonnes of relief material to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen as a contribution to assist flood victims in the fraternal country. The materials, which were transported by two Iraqi planes yesterday afternoon, included medical supplies and medicine.

Transport Minister Cited on Deepening Ports

JN1904150989 Baghdad INA in English 1445 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 19, INA—Mr. Muhammad Hamzah, minister of transport and communications said Iraqi dredging teams are engaged to deepen Iraqi ports within the frame of a plan expected to be completed early next year to allow tankers of liquid gas and byproducts dock in.

In a statement to AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad, Mr. Hamzah said that Iraqi teams are using eight giant dredgers and had so far completed dredging in two canals one of them in Khawr al-Zubayr and the other in Khawr 'Abdallah to a depth ranging between eight and ten meters.

He said that the required depth is 13.2 meters and that the teams completed dredging 2.4 million cubic meters from a plan designed for dredging for 62 million cubic meters. The depth will permit tankers of liquid gas and oil byproduct to dock in Iraqi ports for loading and sailing.

The Iraqi minister of transport and communications further said that the ministry purchased and leased a number of dredgers from friendly countries to minimize the period set for accomplishing this task expected to be completed at the beginning of next year.

Meanwhile, other Iraqi technical teams are undertaking the clearing operation in Shatt Al-'Arab and managed to float and tug several sinking big vessels and dhows.

It is to be noted that export of Iraqi oil and byproducts was suspended across the Arab Gulf throughout the years of the war due to the closure of the vital waterway of Shatt al-'Arab.

Paper Marks Al-Faw Liberation Anniversary

JN1604114089 Baghdad INA in English 0915 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, Apr 16, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily of Baghdad has said that magnificent "Blessed Ramadan" battles of liberating southern Iraqi Al-Faw peninsula last year registered a historic turning point in Iraq's and Arab nation's confrontation of their enemies.

AL-JUMHURIYAH confirmed that the Al-Faw battles highlighted political, military and socio-educational meanings and thus deserved to be an Iraqi national day being celebrated annually.

It stressed that Iraq forced the enemy to take the poison of defeat and succumb to the Iraqi, Arab, Islamic and international will of peace and compelled it to accept the U.N. 598 resolution.

Italy's De Mita, Andreotti To Visit Next Week

TA1704152389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Italian Prime Minister Ciriaco de Mita will arrive next week in Israel on a working visit at the invitation of Yitzhaq Shamir. He will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Andreotti. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that De Mita is the first European leader to hear directly from the prime minister about his political initiative and about the U.S. Administration's reaction.

Syrian Role in Middle East Peace Questioned

JN1704171789 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1442 GMT 17 Apr 89

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners: In answer to a question, Lawrence Eagleburger, U.S. undersecretary of state, said the Middle East peace process cannot be given an impetus without a Syrian participation and contribution. This statement, which Mr Eagleburger made in Washington during the past weekend, will definitely please the Damascus rulers, who every now and then stress that there can be no peace without Syria, or that the road to peace in the Middle East passes through Damascus, or that Syria holds the key to peace and war in the Middle East.

In fact, no one has ever disregarded Syria's role and status in the region. However, by repeating the tune of "no peace without Syria," Damascus rulers give the impression that they need to be reminded every now and then of a number of basic facts that they should never ignore:

1. Syria holds only one key to peace; definitely, it never held and will never hold all the keys.

2. The road to peace between two countries is not a one-way street, but a two-way street. The road to peace among a group of countries is a multi-way street.

3. Peace is not a favor that one party does to the other. It is rather a common vital interest to both parties; indeed, it is a vital interest to all peoples.

4. Any party to any given conflict, regardless of its weight or caliber, can play a negative role and block the road of peace. However, such a destructive role, which contradicts the high vital interests of peoples, cannot be a source of pride and boastfulness, except if it comes as a result of a disturbed mentality and a deviant logic.

Finally, if Damascus rulers repeat every now and then the tune that there is no peace without Syria, it must be pointed out that some objective observers believe that there is no peace with Syria, that is, peace cannot be achieved with Al-Asad's Syria as long as it continues it extremist line and negative policies.

Undoubtedly, this assessment or view is characterized by considerable pessimism and it casts much doubt on the true intentions of Damascus rulers toward the issue of peace in the Middle East.

However, Lawrence Eagleburger did not express such pessimism. Indeed, he expressed some reasonable optimism. The day before the last, and on the same occasion, he said that despite the fact that the Syrian Government will not support the peace process for the first, second, or third moments, there might come a time when Syria's rulers realize that peace is in their own interests and decide to join a peace process between the Arabs, the Israelis, and other countries.

Arab MK Elected Deputy Knesset Speaker

TA1004185189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Knesset member [MK] Nawaf Musaliha was elected deputy Knesset chairman today. MK Musaliha is a resident of Kafr Qari' in the Triangle, a member of the Histadrut Executive Committee, and a member of the Israeli Olympic Committee. He replaces MK Shoshana Arbeli-Almozlino who was elected chairperson of the Knesset Economic Committee. Our Knesset correspondent Ze'ev Kohen spoke to MK Musaliha:

[Begin recording] [Kohen] Good evening MK Musaliha, and congratulations.

[Musaliha] Thank you.

[Kohen] It has been 20 years since the Knesset last had an Arab deputy speaker.

[Musaliha] I believe this is yet another step toward the integration of the Israeli Arabs. With regard to who was appointed in this case, I am sure this is a very important step. We are citizens of the State of Israel. We are a part of the political system. I am certain that this step will contribute to the improvement of the feeling of the Israeli Arabs as citizens.

[Kohen] How do you view your work when we have the events in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip in the background?

[Musaliha] The Israeli Arabs sympathize with their brothers in the territories to a certain extent. We, however, are not the actors. At most, we can be spectators because we are law-abiding Israeli citizens, and I refer to the vast majority of the Israeli Arabs. A distinction should be drawn between the intifadah [uprising] and a political solution.

According to Israeli law they are not Israeli citizens, and these are occupied or conquered territories. We, however, are part of Israel. Furthermore, we also chose to be Israeli citizens. Therefore, the advancement of Israel's

Arabs, or the advancement of their cause must run parallel to political negotiations with the Arabs of the territories. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Jerusalem Radio Updates Gaza Strip Curfews

TA2004072089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 20 Apr 89

[Text] The curfews imposed on the Jabalyah refugee camp and Khan Yunus were lifted this morning. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the curfews imposed on Rafah neighborhoods, the Al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood of Gaza, and the Al-Burayj refugee camp remain in effect.

Drug Ring Operating From Far East Uncovered

TA1504062189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Israeli police and European police forces uncovered an Israeli drug smuggling ring and confiscated 10.5 kg of heroin worth 8 million shekels.

Our correspondent Shim'on Vilna'i reports that the network specialized in smuggling drugs from the Far East via Europe to Israel. About 1 month ago Italian police confiscated 5.5 kg of heroin hidden in oxygen cylinders. They were acting on information provided by the Tel Aviv District Police Crime Squad.

The Italian police arrested Zohar Arusi of Ashqelon, who acted as a drug courier, on his way from Italy to Israel. Shortly afterward, a 44-year-old drug dealer from Holon was arrested in Italy, and yesterday a young Israeli woman was arrested at Amsterdam airport while in possession of 5 kg of heroin.

Drug Abuse Rises; Police Release Figures

TA1804181289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] In 1988 the Israeli Police apprehended 2,000 drug pushers and 4,300 drug users. Commander Yehoshu'a Kaspi, head of Police Investigations Division, has said that the pushers and users were seized as a result of an operation undertaken by undercover agents planted in the drug market in Israel.

At a joint meeting of police and of organizations dealing with the issue, the Investigations Division head said that Israel is located between Lebanon, which is a producer of drugs such as hashish and heroin, and Egypt, where about 9 million people use drugs. Commander Kaspi noted that drug abuse is on the rise in Israel, and that more and more hard drugs are being used.

Drug Seizures, Arrests Reported 10-13 Apr

TA1504094989

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 10 April reports that the police arrested 3 Ramla residents "after finding one of them in the possession of 500 grams of drugs, apparently heroin."

Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1430 GMT on 10 April reports that the Tel Aviv District Court "today sentenced (Dergaglio Verasafa), a Colombian citizen, to 10 years imprisonment" after he arrived from Colombia in January "carrying 89 small packages of heroin, weighing approximately 500 grams, in his stomach."

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 11 April, in a report by Tali Zelinger on page one says that "out of some 10,000 urine samples examined by the Israel Defense Forces [IDF] laboratory in 1988, some 450 showed indications of drug use, all of which was hashish."

Brigadier General Yehuda Danon, the IDF Chief Medical Officer, provided the above data and added that "drug abuse in the IDF does not exceed the accepted norm of the Israeli society in general." "A recent poll conducted by the IDF Chief Medical Officer shows that some 5 percent of the soldiers had encountered drugs before being drafted into the IDF, while only some 3 percent have been exposed to drugs while in service."

Writing on page 4 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 11 April, Eytan Rabin reports: "The military court of the Southern Command yesterday ordered the detention of seven IDF soldiers suspected of using drugs. Two of them are also suspected of dealing drugs." Rabin notes that "many files of drug related charges are being heard in this military court."

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 11 April in a report by Ben Kaspit on page A11 says that "512 grams of heroin, worth over 250,000 shekels, were seized yesterday by the detectives of the drug squad. Three Bedouin residents of Ramla were found in possession of the drug after an extensive intelligence work. The three were detained. More detentions are to be expected."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 11 April reports that the Rehovot Magistrates Court "today imposed heavy sentences on two drug dealers from the Rehovot area. Ya'ir 'Ovadya was sentenced to 4 years imprisonment while She'alti'el Haba received 5 years." The two men were caught approximately 1 month ago with another 25 drug pushers in a large operation by the Hashefela police.

Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0500 GMT on 12 April reports that "Tel Aviv police have arrested a 40-year-old woman on charges of operating a heroin-producing network. In a body search, police found 12 grams of heroin. They discovered 45 more grams of the

substance in her Holon apartment." The report adds that " a married couple from Yafo have also been arrested in connection with the alleged network."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 13 April, in an ITIM report on page 3 reports that "two tourists were detained yesterday for 5 days on suspicion of supplying drugs to the IDF Central Command entertainment troupe. The two are (Yan Chillin) of France and Robert Smith of Britain, both 26 years old."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 13 April on page 4 in a report by Eytan Rabin reports that "some 200,000 people use drugs in Israel, and some 20,000 are addicted to hard drugs." These statistics were supplied by Haya Hekhal, the national inspector of the anti-drug campaign authority in the prime minister's office."

Economy Slows Down in 1st Quarter of 1989

TA1804113689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Apr 89 p 8

[Report by business reporter Judy Maltz]

[Text] The economic slowdown resumed in the first quarter of 1989 after a temporary halt during the election period, and was reflected mainly in reduced sales to the local market, according to the Bank of Israel's quarterly survey of companies, which was released yesterday.

Still, most of the companies surveyed said their profitability had improved in the first quarter, which was attributed by the central bank to cost-cutting measures and to new policy measures adopted by the government.

According to the report, the first quarter was also characterized by a slowdown in the rate of growth of exports, which had increased towards the end of last year. On the basis of the recent drop in orders both at home and abroad, the central bank predicted that the slowdown in activity would continue in the second quarter of the year, encompassing the industrial, transport and hotel sectors.

The report said the continued drop in sales in industry evident in the first quarter of the year was attributed to the fall-off in domestic demand which began early in 1988. Many industrial companies also reported growth in the size of their inventories of raw materials and finished goods. The central bank report explained that many firms, anticipating a devaluation, had imported large quantities of production inputs.

In contrast to most industrial branches, the metals sector reported an increase in both output and sales in the first quarter. In the food and electronics industries, the slowdown in activity was arrested. While most of the industrial companies surveyed said they expected the downturn to continue over the next few months, those that produce consumer goods for export said they projected a rise in sales.

The central bank report noted that in an apparent bid to boost sales to the local market, the amount of customer credit supplied by industrial companies increased in the first quarter. The number of workers dismissed by these companies rose during the period, but in contrast to the second half of last year, most of these layoffs were undertaken by small firms rather than large ones.

Although the slowdown in tourism is continuing, the rate of fall has tapered off, the report said. In construction, surveyed companies said they expected the downturn in the sector to be arrested. The rate of slowdown in the transport industry remained stable.

King Husayn's White House Statement 19 Apr

JN1904204789 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 19 Apr 89

["Statement" by King Husayn following talks with U.S. President George Bush in the White House on 19 April—recorded]

[Text] Thank you Mr President. It is a great pleasure, as always, to return to the United States—a country with whom Jordan has enjoyed a special relationship for so many years. It is even a greater pleasure on this occasion to be meeting with you, Mr President—a treasured friend of long standing. Your dedication to the service of your great country has been a source of inspiration, respect, and admiration to me as it is to all who know you.

Mr President, I know how devoted you are to the cause of peace. I share this devotion. I sincerely hope that through our common devotion to peace, we can, with those who are equally devoted, finally bring peace to the Middle East. You are the sixth President with whom I have enjoyed... [Husayn changes thought] I have joined to pursue that peace.

I first visited this historic house in 1959 to meet with President Eisenhower. It marked the beginning of a warm and productive relationship between our two countries—a relationship which has flourished because of our shared values, shared interests, and shared goals. It is a relationship which my country and I cherish. I am heartened that the talks we are engaged in will contribute to a deepening of this relationship.

One of our goals, which despite 22 years of efforts we have yet to achieve, is a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The principles for that settlement were established many years ago: United Nations Security Council Resoutions 242 and 338. These resolutions provide for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the territories occupied in 1967 in return for the establishment of peace, arrangements for secure and recognized borders, and negotiations under appropriate auspices to implement these provisions.

Your recent explicit reaffirmation of American support for the end of Israeli occupation in return for peace and for the political rights of the Palestinian people—an integral part of any comprehensive settlement—is both constructive and commendable.

As a result of the recent decision by the Palestine Liberation Organization to accept the right of Israel to exist, to negotiate a settlement with Israel based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and to renounce terrorism, a significant contribution to peace has been made. This historic decision has the overwhelming support of the Arab world.

The decision by the United States to undertake substantive discussions with the PLO has further improved the prospects for peace. I hope this will prompt Israel to respond similarily to the requirements of peace and recognize the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Peace can neither be negotiated nor achieved without PLO participation.

Mr President, I believe the bases for peace are already established. What is required is to implement them. The forum for a negotiated comprehensive settlement is a peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations. In my opinion, any steps taken should lead to such a conference if our efforts to arrive at a comprehensive settlement are not to be diverted.

All the people in the Middle East need peace and an end to this tragic and interminable conflict. The rewards of peace are limitless and far outweigh any advantage which might be gained by any party from continued controversy and conflict. The conditions for peace exist. We all must display the vision and determination to capitalize on them.

Mr President, allow me to say as one of your many friends and as one who knows well your qualities, abilities, devotion, and dedication to the cause of peace, that you are the right leader in the right office at the right time. I know the high esteem with which you are held throughout the Middle East.

You are in a unique position to help the protagonists in our area to engender the needed trust and hope and to assist us in bringing the conflict to a just and durable conclusion. I can assure you that I fully support you in all your efforts in this regard.

May God bless you, Mr President, your dear family, and the friendly people of these great United States. Thank you.

Reportage on Disturbances in Southern Areas

Calm Reportedly Returns 20 Apr

JN2004070289 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0515 GMT 20 Apr 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Excerpt] Calm prevailed in all the cities and villages in southern Jordan last night and at dawn today following the disturbances there since the day before yesterday, Tuesday, to protest the high cost of living and the Jordanian Government's decision to raise the prices of several basic commodities. Inhabitants from Ma'an, where the demonstrations started, have reported that calm returned yesterday evening, and that no incident worth mentioning has been reported. Fierce confrontations had taken place between the security forces and demonstrators, who had used firearms.

Former Al-Karak Deputy Nazih 'Ammarin has affirmed that the situation has been very calm in the city since yesterday evening. Al-Karak also was the scene of demonstrations and protests. [passage omitted]

Total of 7 Reported Killed

NC2004111189 Paris AFP in English 1050 GMT 20 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Amman, April 20 (AFP)—Two new deaths were reported Thursday from two days of anti-government demonstrations in southern Jordan that killed a total of seven people, but residents in the region said that order had returned.

King Husayn, currently in Washington on an official visit, blamed the disturbances on "the defaulting by certain Arab states in helping us" financially.

Security reinforcements arrived late Wednesday in the city of Ma'an, 215 kilometers (130 miles) south of here, where protests erupted Tuesday against government-announced price hikes. Demonstrations quickly spread to other cities and towns in the region, notably Al-Karak and Al-Tafilah.

Protestors in Ma'an fired at police, who shot over the heads of the crowd in return, witnesses said, adding that five people in the city of 24,000 died of gunshot wounds Wednesday.

They said disturbances in the village of Mazar further north had taken the lives of a 17-year-old youth and an Air Force pilot on Wednesday. But police in the village, contacted by AFP, would not confirm the deaths. [passage omitted)

Husayn: Government in Control

JN1904185389 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn affirmed in Washington today that everything in the Kingdom is completely under control following events in southern Jordan yesterday and today. His majesty said that we had to take the recent economic measures because some Arab states have not honored their financial commitments to Jordan.

On another level, a responsible Jordanian source said that some incidents occurred in some cities in the south of the kingdom yesterday and today. These incidents were tackled with the highest sense of responsibility and with a spirit of national concern by both the citizens and the officials, who worked to contain the incidents with a sense of cooperation and awareness. The recent measures that have been implemented were indispensable nationalist meaures to preserve the economy and to effect self-reliance.

The responsible source expressed absolute trust in the citizens' awareness and their concern for their country's stability and security.

Prince Hasan Briefs Senate

JN1904213289 Amman Television Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, met at the Royal Hashemite Court this evening with the president and members of the Senate to give them details of the regrettable events in the south. At the end of the meeting, Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi expressed a loyal support for the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn and absolute concern about the Kingdom's security and safety from any disturbance, especially in our country's and the Arab nation's current circumstances. Al-Lawzi stated that Jordan's security and future constitute the top priority, which must guide everybody's thought.

Protests at Amman University

NC1904132089 Paris AFP in English 1254 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Amman, April 19 (AFP)—Jordan's crown prince appealed for calm Wednesday as protests against government price hikes, in which at least 12 policemen have been hurt, spread to more towns in southern Jordan and to Amman's university.

The city of Ma'an, where the demonstrations first erupted Tuesday, was encircled by Jordanian Army armored vehicles, according to a postal employee contacted by telephone.

Fresh protests broke out Wednesday in the city of 24,000, located 215 kilometers (130 miles) south of Amman, said the employee. Gunshots could be heard in the background as he spoke.

Crown Prince Hasan ibn Talal, responsible for state affairs while King Husayn is visiting Washington, told reporters here that he had flown to Ma'an by helicopter Tuesday to personally discuss the grievances of demonstrators.

Local leaders said they wanted to attend an "open meeting in front of the mosque," said the prince. But he added that it was nonetheless "too early to judge" whether Islamic groups were behind the unrest.

At least 12 policemen and six civilians were hurt in Ma'an, where demonstrators "vandalized" banks, warehouses, shops and several public buildings including a medical center, said the prince.

He said the injuries were not caused by gunfire, "but that could happen since some demonstrators are armed with pistols, rifles, everything."

Witnesses said demonstrators, mostly youths, on Tuesday set four banks ablaze in Ma'an and three in Al-Tafilah, farther north. They shouted slogans against the government, which agreed last week to implement austerity measures at the urging of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Protests broke out Wednesday in the city of Al-Karak—midway between Ma'an and the capital—while about 100 students demonstrated at Amman's university, said Prince Hasan. [passage omitted]

The last such unrest in Jordan took place in 1974, when protestors attacked warehouses holding sugar—in short supply at the time—in Al-Zarqa', 20 kilometers (12 miles) outside Amman.

Those protests also erupted when King Husayn was out of the country, which the prince said was "no coincidence." [passage omitted]

Prince Hasan said that with the IMF reforms causing popular discontent, "the situation is ripe for exploitation."

He said he wanted to have a "constructive dialogue" with demonstrators, so he could study their grievances and "so they can realize that they are being exploited." [passage omitted]

Demonstrators List Demands

JN1904182589 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] The city of Ma'an continues to be virtually isolated this evening, like other towns and villages in southern Jordan, where demonstrations, which began yesterday, escalated into clashes between demonstrators and police using automatic weapons. People in Ma'an say that 2 were killed and at least 30 others were injured in the clashes.

Demonstrations have spread to Al-Qasr, north of Al-Karak where demonstrations began today. A delegation from Al-Karak has submitted a petition to the city's governor, demanding the formation of a nationalist government, the trial of those who misappropriated state funds, and the cancellation of recent price increases.

Traditionally, the southern area is loyal to the Hashemite family. The demonstrators are not criticizing the Jordanian monarch but are denouncing the government's measures, the prime minister, the misappropriation of public funds, and corruption.

The regent, Crown Prince Hasan, called today for constructive dialogue to deal with Jordan's economic crisis. The prince said that despite the difficulty of dialogue in such circumstances, calm should first be restored to these areas. The crown prince said that the situation is ripe for exploitation following the economic program which Jordan was forced to implement as part of its agreement with the IMF. The crown prince said he met with some Ma'an notables who will meet with the demonstrators to learn their grievances and to convince them that some people are exploiting the situation.

Demonstrators Affirm Loyalty

JN2004130689 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 20 Apr 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Residents from Ma'an, Al-Tafilah, and Al-Karak have stated that the incidents which swept through the south from Tuesday morning until Wednesday evening have resulted in the death of 7 people and the wounding of 30. However, this was not officially confirmed.

Residents contacted by telephone from Amman asserted that no confrontations have occurred this morning between demonstrators and security forces and that calm prevailed in the area on which a curfew was imposed.

In a contact with our radio, representatives for the demonstrators asserted that their demands are the trial of the prime minister and his subordinates and the return of all the money which, according to them, was embezzled. They also affirmed their absolute support for the Jordanian king and the Hashemite family.

Prince Hasan Discusses Shamir Plan, Economy

JN1904093089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Apr 89 p 3

["Excerpts" of an interview with Crown Prince Hasan published by the Sudanese paper AL-KHARTOUM and AL-ASHIQQA' magazine]

[Text] Prince Hasan, head of the National Committee for Solidarity with the Sudanese People, was asked about Jordan's aid mission sent recently to Sudan.

The Crown Prince expressed satisfaction with the performance of the aid mission to Sudan and said such missions presented a model for establishing better conditions for regional cooperation.

"The situation looks hopeful when we see we are moving from the idea of relief to that of development and to transforming the families that receive aid into productive families through the execution of irrigation and electrification projects in the Sudan," the Crown Prince said.

He expressed hope that the concept of the Hashemite mission would be transformed into a Jordanian-Arab peace mission in the future. When such a concept receives funding and support, it can be applied in any part of Sudan.

Asked about his efforts of achieving peace in Sudan, the Crown Prince said the latest Sudanese peace agreement signed lately was ultimately what we were hoping for—that the peace comes in an inter-Sudanese context.

The Crown Prince said the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) had often attempted to think of solutions to the Sudanese problem but that its members were faced with difficulties because of the size of Sudan's economic problem. To that is added the problem of the number of faiths and the intense migration resulting from conflicts and natural disasters.

Asked about the obstacles that stood in the face of Arab economic integration, the Crown Prince pointed to the absence of Arab will which he said should have stood by Iraq to stop the bloodshed instead of continuing the war which undoubtedly weakened the Arab economic situation in general.

In short, he said, if these regional economic groupings are really based on the concept of long-run integration, "then I think there is great hope in saying that Arab cooperation has started to take into consideration the steady factors of interaction in this world which presents political considerations and planning according to its mood."

Asked whether this reflected optimism on his part, the Crown Prince said "I am at least optimistic about the possibility of the issue because when we talk about the three groupings, we can determine that great efforts were exerted to ensure the success of that work and its content."

Asked whether he thought the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), which groups Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen, could help solve Jordan's economic difficulty, the Crown Prince said "ACC members are facing economic difficulties and I think the joint solution to these problems is to enhance the common denominator among the member states by establishing a clear concept such as setting up an economic bridge between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea to the Arabian Gulf, an economic bridge of land, air and water transport."

The Crown Prince also said that Jordan's economic adjustments measures that were taken in the past few months such as the floating of the dinar's interest rate, were aimed at reconditioning the economy. "This (floating) was done for the first time in Jordan and its practical positive aspect is that it will serve to focus investors' attention on exports and it would promote tourism into the country."

The Prince pointed out that the next five year development plan called on the rest of the Arabs to contribute to the building of the Jordanian economy so that it can reach its self-sufficiency stage, "It is difficult to talk about self development in isolation especially when we talk about political economy," he said.

Asked about His Majesty King Husayn's decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank, the Crown Prince said it was clear, in view of Israel's arrogance and negativism towards efforts of convening an international peace conference, that the last months of the Reagan administration saw a distancing from the priority of looking into the Middle East issue.

The Crown Prince added: "The (disengagement) step taken was a forcing step for every Arab nationalist in the unity context, the context of the Great Arab Revolt. And since it was a political move, it was necessary for the promotion of the Palestinian role on the international scene as well as the role of the PLO." the Crown Prince said.

"This was clear in the speech given by PLO Chairman (Yasir 'Arafat) during the Palestine National Council meeting and following that in Geneva; a development which was not possible, in my belief, were it not for Jordan's clear resolve to sever legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank so that this political reality be granted its real political weight in the Arab Israeli conflict," he said.

"There is a Palestinian will in the occupied territories which refuses occupation and calls for the establishment of a political identity, a Palestinian state. This is the clear trend of the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] and our role is to highlight this trend."

Asked whether he was optimistic about the efforts of the new U.S. administration and whether those could lead to an international conference in view of the moves by Arab leaders, most notably by King Husayn, the Crown Prince said that despite those latter moves, there is a clear programme of priorities which the great powers would handle in the coming years.

"We support calls similar to those of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's for a meeting of foreign ministers of the five permanent members of the Security Council," the Crown Prince said.

"My answer, in short, is that the international strategic ramifications radically affect the agenda of the superpowers but the question is to what extent will it go and how far would they take it?"

Asked what new element does King Husayn take with him on his current trip to the U.S., the Crown Prince replied: "reasserting the Arab position... for after long years of struggle, it is clear that the door is open on the Arab and international arenas for joint action for the sake of the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied Arab territories."

Jordan, he said, is a confrontation state and has the longest border with Israel. "The important thing is for the great powers, and the U.S. in particular, to feel that there is a regional tendency for cooperation (manifested) through the visit of Arab heads of states to Washington."

The Crown Prince described Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's new plan as "old" and said that it constituted a return to the Camp David accords since it suggested holding elections under occupation.

Regarding the Arab Though Forum (ATF), the Crown Prince said it had built bridges of trust between its members and described the ATF as the only forum which was able to hold a seminar on Islamic reawakening and the concerns of the Arab citizens, all with the participation of various Arab schools of thought from the left of the political spectrum, to its right, in a clear and frank dialogue.

Finance Minister Discusses Economy, IMF Talks

JN1904134589 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Finance Minister Dr Hanna 'Awdah, Supply Minister Fayiz al-Tarawinah, and Information Minister Dr Hani al-Khasawinah met at the Information Ministry today with a number of Jordanian writers, journalists, and reporters, and briefed them on the recent talks between the government and the IMF mission. They reported on the results of these talks, and the considerations that prompted the government to revise the prices of certain non-essential commodities.

Starting the meeting, the finance minister reviewed Jordan's development over the last 10 years, which has seen very high income rates compared to other countries. This is in addition to the national economy's achievements in the expansion of services and production capacity.

During that period, the minister said, Jordan accomplished a great deal and at less cost in every field, to the envy of other countries. This, he explained, was largely due to two factors: Arab aid and foreign loans, both of which are decided abroad.

The minister said: Although efforts were exerted nationally during these years to increase the Kingdom's self-reliance in resources, expenditure was always on the increase. It had to be kept at a higher level for several reasons, mainly to implement a program guaranteeing certain major industrial projects, to support agriculture and local government, and to compensate for the obvious fall in private sector investment caused by economic conditions in the Arab world after the drop in oil prices. By virtue of its position, Jordan was affected by these factors, both by the decrease in Arab aid and the obvious drop in demand for Jordanian commodities and services and the significant fall in demand for Jordanian manpower.

The minister added: All these factors have harmed the balance of payments. The balance of the general budget was upset by the gap in the external sector represented by the balance of payments. This situation was further complicated by the servicing of debts. Jordan had resorted to finance institutions for loans to expedite development without asking the citizen to share the costs of the borrowing.

Turning to the government's 5-year national program, Dr 'Awdah said: Any program, whether agreed with the International Monetary Fund or any other institution, has to be acceptable to the party we are dealing with, especially since its implementation will be accompanied by an agreement to reschedule debts. Therefore, Jordan has to provide assurances through its program that it is serious and capable of pursuing and implementing certain corrective policies. This will enable it to deal with the appropriate authorities to reschedule the debts under acceptable conditions. In other words, Jordan must be able to place the national economy on the right course during the period in which debts are rescheduled.

Bkirki Statement Termed 'New Opportunity'

NC1904172689 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] The nationalist and progressive parties and forces held their regular weekly meeting today and discussed the political and security situation and living conditions. They issued a statement saying that they had examined the statement issued by the Bkirki meeting yesterday and believe it is a new opportunity to attain a cease-fire. They also regard the statement as a new sign of the isolation of 'Awn and his military adventure which has involved the country in a destructive war.

The nationalist and progressive parties and forces emphasized their positive attitude toward the efforts of the six-member Arab committee and their complete commitment to the cease-fire appeal that the committee's chairman issued, which includes calls for lifting the blockades and reviving the central security committee. The nationalist parties and forces declared that this appeal is the sole basis for reaching a cease-fire and any departure from it would lead the country into serious entanglements and make the crisis worse.

The nationalist and progressive parties and forces praised the call to convene the Arab League Council. They urged the council to further its efforts on this basis and in accordance with the results of the meeting held in Damascus between the Arab good offices committee and a delegation of the nationalist and progressive parties.

The nationalist and progressive parties and forces urged the Arab League Council to put an end to Iraq's support for 'Awn and his bloody scheme, which is inimical to our people's interests and aspirations.

The statement concludes: 'Awn insists on pursuing his bloody plan, as is proven by his campaign against those who refused to cover up for the massacres he has imposed on the Lebanese people in all areas. In view of this, the nationalist and progressive parties and forces believe that what is happening decisively demonstrates that the only way to reach a true solution that would end the civil war is to reform the system and attain a political solution based on the abolition of political sectarianism.

The 'Awn-Ja'ja' alliance has become the main obstacle to such a course because of its insistence on rejecting the cease-fire proposed in the Arab committee chairman's appeal. Hence, the nationalist parties and forces demand that all leading figures in the eastern area adopt a clear and firm stand against 'Awn's adventure. Such a stand would pave the way for ending the war and reaching a political solution.

Birri Comments

NC1904164389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Nationalist parties and forces met at noon today. Present at the meeting were Marwan Hamadah and Akram Shuhayyib for the Progressive Socialist Party; Nabih Birri and Muhammad Baydun for the Amal Movement; Karim Muruwwah and Ilyas 'Atallah for the Lebanese Communist Party; Dr Samir Sabbagh for the Nasirite Unionist Movement; Elie Hubayqah for the Lebanese Forces; Nasri Khuri for the Syrian Social Nationalist Party-The Emergency Council; Munir al-Sayyad for the Arab Socialist Union-The Nasirite Organization; Deputy Zahir al-Khatib and Sami Jabr for the Workers League; 'Ali Hasan for the Syrian Social Nationalist Party-The Higher Council; and Suhayl Qassar for the Ba'th Party.

After the meeting, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri said: In view of the current security and political conditions which the country is experiencing and which are threatening the future of Lebanon, the nationalist forces have decided to hold regular weekly meetings. They may also hold extraordinary sessions. The nationalist forces have set up several committees, the most important of which are the political and information committees. These committees will be in constant session day and night in the form of an operations room, to follow up events and take appropriate action.

Asked his opinion about the Bkirki statement, Birri said the Bkirki statement came as a song in 'Awn's windmill, and is of no significance. Replying to a question, he said that, as regards living conditions, the nationalist forces are at the disposal of the legitimate government led by Dr Salim al-Huss, adding that these forces will perform their duty to the fullest and do whatever is required of them.

Further Birri Comments

NC2004112189 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 Apr 89

[Text] Today's cabinet meeting today ended at 1155. The first to emerge from the meeting was Minister Walid Junblatt, who made no statement.

Amal leader Minister Nabih Birri said: In this time of security awareness, if that is the proper term, the cabinet dealt with social and services affairs, particularly the issues of diesel and gasoline and their supply to hospitals and telephone exchange centers following the calamity which befell national Beirut and its suburbs, a calamity which was caused by the unexploded as well as the exploded bombs. Prime Minister Salim al-Huss showed us samples of the fatal weapons in the possession of the Lebanese Army, which has never attacked Israel until now.

Minister Birri added: The cabinet requested an official investigation of Israel's annexation of lands in Shab'a and Yarin and the Israeli attempts at settlement. The cabinet wishes to apply to the Security Council to convene so as to lodge an official complaint in this regard. He continued: What happens here must not divert us from what is taking place in the south.

Regarding the statement that was issued following the deputies' meeting in Bkirki, Minister Birri said: The stand of the cabinet is the same as that expressed by the majority of the national and Islamic parties yesterday. The cabinet looks at the positive aspects of the statement as a possible starting point to reform the regime. However, as I said yesterday, my personal opinion is that the statement is like a song in 'Awn's windmill, which will distort every voice calling for peace.

Asked whether the bread crisis will end in a few hours, Birri answered: Convoys bringing flour began arriving via Damascus today. I believe a ship will anchor in port of Tripoli on Saturday [22 April], and its cargo will be sent to Beirut. Birri added: We also touched upon the issue of possible aid arriving. Even if this aid is allocated for the eastern area, we are prepared to secure its arrival there.

Answering a question, Minister Birri said: This war has been imposed on us. The only war that exists is that of the liberation of the south. We cannot kneel and let the blood of the martyrs flow in vain. We will continue to struggle against this regime that has led us to where we are. He added: The nationalist forces did not start the shooting, but Michel 'Awn, may God help him, did.

Al-Huss Cables Arab Committee Chairman

NC1904143689 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1150 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Excerpts] The meeting of the Arab League Council, which was slated for this Friday, has been postponed until next Tuesday or Wednesday. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has cabled Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, welcoming his call for convening a special meeting of the Arab foreign ministers. The cable reads, in part:

Your Excellency Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister and chairman of the Arab liaison and good offices committee: We welcome your initiative in calling the Arab foreign ministers to convene to follow up the dramatic and tragic situation in Lebanon. We praise your sincere efforts to restore peace to the scorched land of Lebanon. The ferocity of the violence is such that it would be no exaggeration to say it is threatening man's life and existence.

Prime Minister al-Huss added: We look forward with hope to what might emerge from the anticipated meeting. In the name of all Lebanese of all factions and all areas, we hope that the council's position will match the level of the ordeal of the people in Lebanon. The restoration of security and stability must take priority at this time.

We believe that their restoration should be on the basis of the appeal you made in Damascus calling for a cease-fire, the revival of the security committee, and an end to the reciprocal blockades along the Lebanese coast. In order that no gap should be left through which those harmed by the restoration of peace to Lebanon may slip, we draw your attention to the following:

1. The need to direct efforts not only toward a cease-fire but also toward the halting of all warlike and military operations.

2. The need to find a mechanism to follow up the implementation of any decision reached on Lebanon.

Prime Minister al-Huss declared: We eagerly look forward to the views which the Arab committee comes up with to deal with the Lebanese crisis in depth, now that the committee has completed its consultations with the various Lebanese parties.

Farah To Represent Lebanon at League Meeting

NC2004072789 Beirut Domestic Serivce in Arabic 0700 GMT 20 Apr 89

[Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, head of the six-member Arab committee, has announced that the Arab League has postponed the Arab foreign ministers' emergency meeting that was slated for tomorrow, Friday, until 26 April.

On the instructions of Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, Ambassador Salah Sutaytiyah, acting Foreign Ministry secretary general, has contacted Ambassador Sulayman Farah, Lebanon's permanent representative at the Arab League, and instructed him to represent Lebanon at the Arab foreign ministers' emergency meeting.

'Awn Alerts Arab Leaders to Syrian Plan

NC2004070889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 20 Apr 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn sent a message yesterday to the Arab kings and presidents, including Yasir 'Arafat. In his message, 'Awn noted that describing the conflict in Lebanon as merely internal is a false pretext to cover up the grave crime that Syria is committing against Lebanon.

Gen 'Awn denounced the war of attrition waged by the Syrian regime against the Lebanese people. He cautioned against the dangers inherent in the failure to adopt an effective stand that would save Lebanon and restore Arabs soldiarity and credibility. In his message, 'Awn said that the [Syrian] occupation had managed to drive the PLO out of Lebanon and is now seeking to convince the Lebanese people that the partition is an accomplished fact.

Army Command Issues Statement on Volunteers

NC2004100189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 20 Apr 89

[Statement issued by the Guidance Directorate of General 'Awn's Army Command on 20 April]

[Text] In the wake of Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn's call for the liberation of Lebanon and his call for marshalling all available resources for the sake of this liberation, a large number of citizens from all walks of life visited the military authorities and offered their free services.

The Army Command, out of its faith in the need for the citizens to take part in the national efforts, has decided to accept all volunteers to work gratis at the Army centers, each according to his own qualifications. All volunteers are hereby requested to proceed to the commands of the regions and brigades, which will guide them to the military regions they choose. For further information, please contact the Lebanese Army's Guidance Directorate.

'Unofficial' Security Council Consultations Held

LD1904163489 Paris Domestic Service in French 1600 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Michel Rocard this afternoon told the National Assembly that the permanent members of the Security Council were in unofficial consultation to try to give Mr Perez de Cuellar a mandate to negotiate and seek peace in Lebanon.

Syrian Artillery Bombards Army Positions

NC1904181289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Following a period of guarded calm that continued well into the afternoon, the shelling of Lebanese Army positions in Dahr al-Wahsh and 'Arayya was resumed at 1730 today, and reached the area of Monte Verde. After 1815, tension increased as areas from Qurs al-Mudawwar and 'Ayn al-Sayyidah to Qal'at al-Hisn, (Matiy Bnkikkin), Dahr al-Wahsh, the Al-Kahhalah hills, and 'Arayya were attacked.

Syrian field artillery positioned in 'Alayh, 'Ayn al-Jadidah, and Ba'lshmayh and tanks stationed in Duhur al-'Ibadiyah participated in shelling the Army positions. The shelling of Monte Verde and Bayt Mirri became violent after 1830.

The explosion of two rockets on the Sodeco lines and intermittent gunfire on the Old Markets combat lines were heard at approximately 1740 today.

Resistance Fighters Shell Lahd Position

NC2004073689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 20 Apr 89

[Text] In the resisting south, an explosive charge detonated while a patrol of Israel's agents was passing near Kafr Falus. In the meantime, a post manned by the agent Lahd troops was the target of a number of shells fired from the resistance fighters' positions located east of Sidon. A number of agents were either killed or wounded as a result.

The Voice of the South, the mouthpiece of the agents, admitted that two had been wounded in the operation.

Hafiz al-Asad Reportedly Welcomes PLO Visit

JN1904175389 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 17 Apr 89 pp 1, 18

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has welcomed the visit of a Palestinian delegation to Damascus and promised to release all Palestinian detainees held in Syrian jails during the 'Id al-Fitr [6 or 7 May] holidays.

Informed Palestinian sources have told AL-BAYAN that President al-Asad, who met Mrs Intisar al-Wazir, also known as Umm Jihad, PLO Central Council member and deputy chairperson of the Fatah Movement Revolutionary Council, defined a sympathetic Syrian position on the PLO. The sources added that President al-Asad also clearly welcomed the normalization of Syrian-PLO ties.

The Palestinian sources went on to say that the Syrian president, who met with Mrs Umm Jihad for 3 hours, talked about the martyred Palestinian leader Abu Jihad, also known as Khalil al-Wazir, criticized PLO leaders mildly, and welcomed a visit to the Syrian capital, Damascus, by a PLO Executive Committee delegation.

The Palestinian sources said that the talks did not touch on Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. However, the sources added, it seems that Damascus hinted that it would be ready to receive a PLO delegation comprising Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Abu 'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri] for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Sulayman al-Najjab for the Palestinian Communist Party. The sources said that no mention was made of Fatah in this regard.

AL-BAYAN has learned that Mrs Intisar al-Wazir, who returned to the Tunisian capital on Saturday, 15 April, met hours after her arrival there with Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, during which she is believed to have briefed the latter on the results of her meetings with President al-Asad and other Syrian officials.

Palestinian sources expressed the belief that the Palestinian leaders will assess these results today to decide on the next step to be taken, particularly if we bear in mind that Algeria has been mediating between the two parties for the past 10 days. Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh has visited Damascus for this purpose.

The number of Palestinian detainees held in Syrian jails is believed to exceed 700.

Qaddumi Reportedly Invited

JN1904195789 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 17 Apr 89 pp 1, 17

[Text] Reliable Palestinian sources have told AL-SIYASAH that Palestinian Foreign Minister Faruq Qaddumi has received an official invitation to visit Syria from Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

The Palestinian sources have revealed the presence in Damascus of a Palestinian delegation composed of various Palestinian factions under the PLO with the exception of the Arab Liberation Front.

The delegation includes Abu 'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri], PLO Executive Committee member and assistant secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; a representative of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; and 'Abbas Zaki, director of foreign relations in Fatah and Fatah Central Committee member.

The sources add that the delegation held expanded meetings with Syrian officials and with the staff of the Syrian president's office before meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad.

Faruq al-Shar' told the delegation of his desire to receive Qaddumi within 1 week. However, Qaddumi will not be able to visit Damascus within the next 2 weeks because Palestinian leaders have to meet to evaluate the Palestinian delegation's visit and its meetings with the Syrian president and senior Syrian officials.

Based on these developments, the sources expressed optimism over Algerian mediation efforts between the PLO and Syria—efforts that led to the Palestinian delegation's visit to Damascus—and expressed relief over President al-Asad's 2 and ½ hour meeting with Umm Jihad [Intisar al-Wazir], widow of Martyr Khalil al-Wazir, last Thursday [13 April].

The same sources also said that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is now welcome in Damascus but will not go there before Qaddumi makes full arrangements for the visit.

'Arafat issued strict instructions to all the Palestinian officials that they should not divulge the positive developments in relations with Syria or leak any information on the subject.

Mashariqah Receives Iraqi CP Official

JN1904155789 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1420 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Damascus, April 19 (SANA)— Dr Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president and deputy chairman of the Progressive National Front, received here today 'Aziz Muhammad, secretary general of the Iraqi Communist Party.

They discussed the latest developments in the Arab region and the situation in Lebanon in view of the crimes being committed by the 'Awn-Ja'ja' clique against all Lebanese people and Lebanon's unity. They said that this clique is dependent on the Israeli enemy and the fascist regime in Iraq.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin 'Premier' Rejects Dialogue With Kabul

BK2004011089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1822 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Islamabad, April 19 (AFP)—The prime minister of the interim Afghan resistance government, 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, Wednesday [19 April] rejected the U.N. secretary general's idea of an intra-Afghan dialogue with the Soviet-backed regime of President Najibullah.

In a letter to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar quoted by the resistance AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY [ANA], Mr. Sayyaf said his government cannot hold talks with the Kabul regime which had "excluded itself from Afghan society by inviting a foreign power to the country and cooperating with it."

The U.N. chief proposed the idea on the first anniversary of the signing of the April 14 Geneva peace accords, which provided for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan in February.

"We cannot understand why you call for such a dialogue when an intra-Afghan dialogue had already taken place in the form of a consultative shura (council) in February," ANA said, quoting the text of the letter. The shura choose an interim government for the resistance.

Mr. Sayyaf said the Iran-based minority Shi'ite group which had boycotted the shura "will soon join our government which had already won formal or de facto recognition from a number of the U.N. member countries." He said "all the mujahidin groups were unanimous in rejecting the Najibullah regime ... they consider the regime as atheist despite its claim to the contrary," he said.

Moreover, he said the Afghan people have learned from the history of Eastern Europe after World War II. "Several of those countries fell into the orbit of the Soviet Union because they allowed the minority pro-Moscow parties to participate in their popular governments. We do not want to commit the same mistake," he told Mr. Perez de Cuellar in his letter.

Kabul Criticizes U.S. Aid Approval for Rebels

BK1904155689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1553 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 19 (AFP)—Mujahidin gunners sent four rockets crashing into the northern suburbs of Kabul Wednesday as the government of President Najibullah lambasted the United States for continuing aid to the Pakistan-based resistance. The rockets which landed in the afternoon in rapid succession appeared to have caused no damage, witnesses said.

One landed some 200 meters (yards) from the city's leading hotel, the Continental, where the government plans to house foreign guests attending the anniversary of the communist revolution here to be held April 27. Two of the rockets exploded in a field, and another against a wall, witnesses said. It was not immediately known exactly where the fourth came down.

Government spokesman Muhammad Nabi Amani on Wednesday criticised the U.S. House Subcommitee on Asian-Pacific Affairs for its approval of a new 150 million dollar aid package to the mujahidin provisional government, saying it contravened the Geneva accords on Pakistan.

Though the aid was described as non-military, Mr. Amani charged that it would end up on international black markets in exchange for weapons bought from countries such as Israel and South Africa.

The Geneva accords, signed by Afghanistan and Pakistan, and guaranteed by the United States and the Soviet Union, call for the signatories to refrain from interfering in one another's internal affairs and for the guarantors to help find a peaceful solution to the Afghan conflict.

Soviet troops left Afghanistan February 15 in line with the accords, but since then the Soviet Union has continued to pour massive amounts of military aid into Kabul by airlift and down the Salang highway from the Soviet border.

Journalists on the Salang highway Wednesday said 300 to 400 trucks loaded with military equipment and food were pouring down into Kabul, and quoted drivers as saying they had met only token resistance on the the way from the northern city of Mazar-e Sharif.

Another 250 trucks destined to resupply government soldiers battling a mujahidin siege against the strategic eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad left Kabul early Wednesday for the 80-mile (130 kilometers) journey, reporters on the road said. It was not known if the convoy reached the city safely, but Afghan spokesmen and Soviet sources have said the road has been free of major attacks since the mujahidin mined a 13-mile (22 kilometers) stretch near the town of Sarowbi last week.

A government spokesman reported an escalation of fighting throughout the country, with rocket attacks on five cities including Jalalabad. The attacks were made on the cities of Qandahar, Gardeyz and Mehtarlam in the east, in northern Faryab Province and on the western city of Herat, the spokesman said. The Mehtarlam attack left four civilians killed and 12 injured, and three civilians were wounded in Gardeyz. No casualty figures were available from Herat or Qandahar, the government spokesman said.

Wakil Holds News Conference in Moscow
LD1504221489 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil held a press conference in Moscow yesterday at which he noted that 15 April is the anniversary of the signing of the Geneva accords, which are aimed at the peaceful resolution of the Afghan situation. He added that it had been hoped that the accords would bring peace to Afghanistan, but this goal had not been achieved because of the interfering and aggressive policies of Pakistan, which is one of the signatories of the Geneva accords. 'Abdul Wakil added that only the Afghan and Soviet governments had fulfilled their commitments in this regard, adding that the Soviet forces had completely returned from Afghanistan.

The Afghan foreign minister hoped that the international community and public opinion would bring pressure to bear on the Pakistani militarists and help end Pakistan's aggression against and interference in Afghanistan. 'Abdul Wakil added that Pakistan's repeated violations of the accords had forced Afghanistan to turn to the UN Security Council. He added that the UN Security Council is expected to take the necessary measures to end these violations.

150 Army Soldiers Reportedly Defect to Mujahidin
BK1904114489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1140 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, April 19 (AFP)—Some 150 Afghan Army soldiers, including four officers, have defected and joined the mujahidin forces in northwestern Badghis Province, resistance sources said here Wednesday. The chief of Sarandoy forces in Qal'eh-ye Now, the provincial capital, had established secret contacts with rebel commander Nek Muhammad of the Jamiyat-e Eslami faction, the sources said. He defected to the mujahidin on April 13 with some 150 soldiers, bringing several vehicles and weapons, they said.

More than 3,000 Afghan soldiers and militiamen have defected and joined the rebels since Soviet troops completed their withdrawal from Afghanistan on February 15. Most of the defections took place in the north and north-west, with most of the defectors joining the Jamiyat, led by Burhanuddin Rabbani, the sources said. However defections have been few, they said.

Jalalabad Fighting Updated; Losses Detailed
LD2004063189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 20 apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 19, BAKHTAR—With the support of the 11th and 18th Pakistani divisions the joint Pakistani forces and extremists attacked from Samarkhel and Chapliar Khwar directions with heavy rocket and artillery fires the city of Jalalabad, centre of Nangarhar Province during the past 24 hours, an authorised military source said.

Eighteen civilians were killed, 31 others wounded, 5 residential houses, 5 shops and an establishment of public utility demolished in the attacks. Two members of the Armed Forces were killed and 5 others wounded as well.

As a result of the retaliatory attacks of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan the enemies were repulsed. Forty seven extremists were killed, 19 others wounded and large quantities of their arms and ammunition destroyed.

The armed extremists supported by Pakistan who attacked Khowst from various directions were rebuffed. Fifty eight extremists were killed and 15 others wounded.

During the mopping up operations of the Armed Forces in the Daman District, Qandahar Province 19 extremists were killed and 40 others wounded. Two sets of reactives [missiles], 2 anti-aircraft guns and several hideouts of the enemy [were] destroyed.

Mujahidin Leader Says Jalalabad To Fall 'Soon'
BK1904163689 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] The minister of national security of the Afghan interim government, Haji Din Muhammad, has said mujahidin are only 2 to 7 km away from Jalalabad. In an interview he said Jalalabad is likely to fall soon to the mujahidin. He said the runway and military posts around the airport had already been captured by the mujahidin.

Nonaggression Pact Signed for Kabul-Parvan Road
LD1904175189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] A protocol on nonaggression on government and civilian supply convoys using Kabul-Parvan highway, was concluded today with the elders of Kalakan subdistrict, Mir Bachew Kowt district, Kabul Province.

Fazal Ahmad Tughian, governor of Kabul and a number of the elders and representatives of the above villages and some representatives of the armed opposition groups of Mir Bachew Kowt district, Kabul Province were present for the signing of this protocol, which was concluded at the Kabul governorate headquarters.

On the basis of this protocol which was concluded with the armed opposition groups as a result of valuable and useful contacts by the elders with the armed opposition groups, armed operations by the opposition groups will end between (Chashmeh-ye Dost) and Kalakan subdistrict beginning 20 April this year. The Armed Forces will also refrain from combat operations in the above regions.

It is pointed out in the protocol that in the event of damage to the government or private motor vehicles, the security forces will be allowed to carry out combat operations in the above regions.

In light of this protocol, the commodities needed by the inhabitants of these regions, such as wheat, sugar, petroleum, cooking oil, and chemical fertilizer will be made available to them by the government for cash.

Armed Forces Military Situation 18 Apr

LD1904175689 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] An authoritative Armed Forces source reports to BIA's military section that yesterday Pakistan-backed extremist groups violated the cease-fire using heavy arms, in the provinces of Nangarhar, Paktia, Herat, Qandahar, Parvan and Laghman and Khowst Major District. Armed forces units in the provinces struck crushing blows at the enemy and inflicted heavy loss of life. In other provinces, all in all, the cease-fire has been observed.

The source added that yesterday joint Pakistan forces and armed extremist groups backed by them, fired rockets and other heavy weapons from the direction of Chaparhar, Shegah and Khugianay on the city of Jalalabad and security posts around the city.

The source added that the enemy, which includes members of the Punjabi militia and army, and armed Wahabi mercenaries, mounted the attack with heavy weapons fire. Our heroic Armed Forces neutralized and repulsed the enemy's attack with artillery and air force strikes. Three members of the Armed Forces were wounded.

As a result of Afghan Air Force and artillery strikes, 146 enemies were killed and 67 were wounded. Four ringleaders, seven Punjabi Armed Forces members and four Wahabi armed merceneries were among those killed. Similarly, nine enemy mortars, two arms and ammuntion depots, three BM-1 missiles, one BM-12, seven vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition, five rocket launchers, two DShK machine guns, one ZK-1 anti-aircraft machine gun, and four 76-mm guns were destroyed.

The Armed Forces source adds that yesterday Punjabi and armed Wahabis and extremists associated with them fired heavy weapons at the residential areas of Khowst and its periphery. As a result one woman and a man were wounded. Armed Forces units based in the areas responded to the extremists with heavy arms fire. As a result of air and artillery fire 27 of the enemy were killed and 8 others wounded.

According to another report 4 people, including 2 children, were killed as a result of enemy heavy weapons fire on the town of Mehterlam, and 12 others, including 2 children and 3 women, were wounded. Due to extremist group shelling, two houses, one shop and three rooms in Mehtarlam hospital have been destroyed. As a result of the Armed Forces retaliation, 12 enemies were killed and 17 were wounded; one BM-1 set, three missiles and one mortar were destroyed and an arms and ammunitions depot was set ablaze.

Armed extremists fired 548 rounds of rockets and shells at the city of Gardeyz yesterday. Three women were seriously wounded. Two shrines, 13 residents, 5 shops and 1 cultural institution were damaged. As a result of the provincial units' retialiation, 12 extremists were crushed and 18 were wounded. One enemy missile and one vehicle loaded with arms and ammunition were destroyed.

Another report says that armed extremists fired heavy weapons at the city of Herat and in other areas in Faryab Province. Units based in related provinces retaliated. As many as four armed enemies were killed and two others were wounded. One shop belonging to a cotton company in Herat caught fire. In Faryab Province two Saudi Wahabi mercenaries and an extremist group ringleader were killed and a Saudi Wahabi was wounded.

Security Forces Seize Arms Caches in Kabul

LD1904170489 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] The security forces today prevented a tragic incident in Kabul city. The military section of BAKHTAR reports that criminal extremists linked to Pakistani militarists stored more that 12 kg of explosives, 13 surface-to-surface missiles along with 20 warheads, and 21 boxes of ammunition for DShk and Kalashnikov rifles in the suburbs of Kabul city. With these weapons they intended to murder our faithful compatriots in the holy month of Ramadan. These were discovered in time by the People's Militia command of Kabul Province's security ward No 7 and were seized. The local people gave their support.

Today, the security organs seized surface-to-surface missiles, explosives, hand granades, and ammunition, thus preventing a painful incident in Kabul city. The BAKHTAR military section reports that criminal extremists, backed by Pakistan, had placed 4 surface-to-surface missiles, 9 kg of explosives, motar mines and 11 hand grenades in the suburbs of Kabul city intending to soak a number of our compatriots with blood during the month of Ramadan. This foul plan by the enemies of our compatriots' peace and tranquility was foiled on time.

Prime Minister on Domestic Political Scene

OW1804113689 Tokyo KYODO in English 0944 GMT 18 Apr 89

[By Tim Johnson]

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Bangladesh Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed said Tuesday his country is ready to meet Japan's growing unskilled labor needs if Japan

requests help. "We'd be only too happy to provide Japan with our skilled but inexpensive labor," Ahmed said in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE held just before his departure from Japan after a two-day visit.

"It would help our economy—but it would have to be done in accordance with Japanese law," he said, in a reference to the issue of Bangladeshi laborers currently working in Japan illegally.

Ahmed said Dhaka does not hold a grudge over Japan's temporary suspension of a visa-exemption accord with Bangladesh last January, a measure taken to curb the spiraling number of illegal foreign workers attracted by Japan's higher wages.

After the shelving of the reciprocal agreement, the number of Bangladeshis coming to Japan on tourist visas fell drastically, along with those of other Asian countries.

"This is an internal matter of the Japanese Government," the prime minister stressed, adding that the matter did not even come up for discussion in his meetings with Japanese government and business leaders.

Ahmed met on Monday with Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno and Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, minister of international trade and industry. He arrived in Japan following visits to the Middle East and the United States.

Ahmed, who was named to Bangladesh's second most powerful position in March 1988, said that the illegal worker issue does not constitute a bilateral problem between his country and Japan.

But he said Bangladesh is nevertheless concerned about its citizens' possible violation of Japanese laws and promised to look into the matter when he returns to Dhaka.

Japan is by far the largest bilateral developmental assistance donor to Bangladesh as well as the largest contributor of funds for its flood rehabilitation program.

Questioned on Bangladesh's domestic political scene, Ahmed expressed doubts that a new "liberal democratic party," to be launched soon by defectors from both the ruling Jatiya Party and opposition parties, will pose a threat to the government of President Ershad in the next presidential elections scheduled for 1991 or the parliamentary elections scheduled for 1993.

Ahmed said the proposed party, which will include two former ministers of President Ershad, "will just add a number to the already large number of parties on the scene."

Ahmed skirted the question of whether either election will be moved forward to as early as next year, as has been speculated, replying instead, "we want the Constitution and the democratic framework in the country to continue."

He said that the insurgency in the southeastern Chittagong hill tracts, neighboring India, has subsided since the parliament passed legislation in March that give the region's tribal peoples a greater say in governing the upland region.

Over 3,000 people have reportedly been killed since the troubles between tribal residents and Moslem Bengali settlers flared in 1974 and peaked in 1986. Ahmed would not comment on how the government in Dhaka perceives India's role in the affair. India allegedly gave sanctuary to the tribal rebels in the past.

The prime minister denied that Islamic fundamentalism is a viable force in Bangladesh, where gatherings of fundamentalists, called the Jamiat-i-Islam, have recently taken place to demand the execution of "blasphemous" British author Salman Rushdie and to criticize the government for being "un-Islamic."

"Our people are noncommunal and liberal, so that's why you never see (factional) riots in our country," he said. On the government's declaring an Islamic state in Bangladesh last June, Ahmed said that the measure was taken "to prevent communalism on one hand and fundamentalism on the other."

Refuting views that it was a concession to fundamentalists, Ahmed took pains to distinguish between the government's declaration of "an Islamic state," done in consideration that the population is 90-percent Sunni Moslem, and a declaration of "Islam as the state religion," something he said the government did not do.

He rejected out-of-hand periodic claims that minority Hindus and Buddhists are being discriminated against in Islamic Bangladesh. "The rights for all religions are equally guaranteed in the Constitution," he said.

Japan To Extend 18.5 Billion Yen Loan for Plant

OW1904142689 Tokyo KYODO in English 1321 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO—Japan is ready to extend up to 18.5 billion yen in low-interest loans to Bangladesh to help finance a fertilizer plant project, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday. Japan pledged the new credit to Bangladesh for fiscal 1988 at a meeting Wednesday of the inter-government group on Bangladesh in Paris.

The official loan will carry an annual interest of 1 percent and will be repayable over a period of 30 years with a 10-year grace period, the ministry said.

India

ISI Carries Spokesman's Statement on Nepal

BK1904161589 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service 1433 GMT 19 Apr 89

["Official Spokesman's Statement Clarification on Nepal"—date and place not given]

[Text] To a question about what was India's understanding about various statements which have been made so far from the Nepalese side, the spokesman pointed out that there have been various statements from the Nepalese which India finds somewhat contradictory. While the Nepalese foreign minister has made a call for the meeting of the commerce ministers of the two countries, he and other Nepalese Government officials have gone on record as saying that Nepal does not want a special relationship with India and will be satisfied with the MFN [most favored nation] status. The tariff changes announced on 11/4/89, are a pointer in the same direction.

To a question as to whether India [words indistinct] the Nepali attitude as not showing any real desire to address the important issues concerned, the spokesman said that the king's statement had emphasised only problems of Nepal related to trade and transit and the fact that Nepal was a land-locked country. India has always been open to negotiations, but the king's statement had not addressed itself to the question of discrimination against Indian nationals, but only readiness to negotiate problems resulting from expiry of the trade and transit treaties.

This does not address the question of status of Indian teachers, their registration, issues like barring Indians from travelling within 10 km of the Nepal-China border, the question of work permits for Indians, etc. These are flagarant violations of the 1950 treaty. The issues to be negotiated have gone far beyond the narrow and specific problem of trade and transit.

To a question about harassment of Indian nationals, the spokesman clarified that India had received reports of harassment of Indians long before the transit treaty lapsed. When asked about the particular kind of harassment involved, he further clarified that Indians were required to procure work permits and this was a flagrant discrimination because 5 to 6 million Nepalese working in India were not required to possess work permits, nor do they have to produce passports. Their domicile is basically in Nepal, but they are not required to register in India even for owning property.

To a question whether under the MFN status, trade would be carried out in hard currency, the spokesman said that trade would be as for any country in a similar position. He also clarified to another question that the Indian currency which had been taken back by the Nepal aircraft had in all probability returned (it had in fact come back and this had been reported in the financial papers here).

To a question about application of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] norms in trade by Nepal to India, the spokesman said that all SAARC rules are decided by consensus and these decisions apply [words indistinct] members. He refused to comment to a question on whether India's relations would be better with Nepal, if Nepal had a democratic system of government.

To a question about the level at which negotiations could be resumed, he said that while the commerce secretaries would be able to discuss matters relating to trade and transit, the whole gamut of relations which have to be reviewed in the present state of relations, would have to be reviewed only at the foreign ministers level. There were a number of issues involved such as trade, labour, transit, ownership out over the whole of northern India, inclusive of the north eastern states.

To a question as to whether India had any specific suggestions about negotiations, he said that India does not have at present any specific suggestion, but had always been open to negotiations. However, on the Nepalese side there had been no demonstration of intent to negotiate or a determination to grasp the main issues and pursue them. Rather, they had taken the attitude of beating about the bush.

The only clear statement had been from foreign minister, Mr Upadhyaya, who had very clearly said that his country does not want a special relationship. India has no comment to offer whether the commerce ministers should begin negotiations now. At present India was correcting the misinterpretations in the press regarding the king's speech, which had reportedly wanted to better relations with India.

He reiterated that India feels that the content and interest of the speech is confined to the narrow issue of trade and transit and does not go far enough. India had not pressed for any special relationship. This had to be a clear decision of the Nepalese side and if theg wish to change the relationship, India would negotiate on those terms.

To a question, whether the Nepalese foreign minister had brought a draft for negotiaions during his last visit to Delhi, the spokesman confirmed this and said that India had studied the draft and had seen that it was close to the MFN concept. This draft seen together with the statements of the Nepalse foreign minister and other government officials had lead India to conclude that Nepal desires a MFN status. But, the Nepalese have not come out clearly [words indistinct].

When the spokeman was asked to comment about a front page article which appeared in the PATRIOT of 14/4/89, with the headline "Nepal Handling Is Wrong, Say Ministers", he gave the following comment: The basic thrust of tme article is that it is not founded on fact, except for some portions such as para-3 and the third last para.

To a question whether the commerce ministers would meet soon and where such a meeting would take place, he said that India will look into the Nepali suggestion and it was too early to decide the venue.

To another question, he said that India had no reports about impediments being placed on tourists travelling from India to Nepal.

Alleged 'Harassment' of Indians in Bhutan Refuted
BK2004035089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Apr 89

[Text] An External Affairs Ministry spokesman in New Delhi has described as exaggerated the reports appearing in a section of the press about alleged harassment of Indians in Bhutan. Responding to newsmen's queries, he said that Bhutan has been conducting a drive since 1986 to identify people without proper work permits. In this process, about 9,000 foreigners were expelled from the Kingdom up to the end of May last year. Of them, only 93 were Indians.

'Terrorists' Kill 10 Persons in Rajasthan 19 Apr
BK1904161089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] In Rajasthan, 4 suspected terrorists killed at least 10 persons in indiscriminate firing while looting the State Bank of India branch at Sadhu Sahar in Ganganagar District today. According to police sources, the culprits escaped in a jeep. The exact number of those injured and the amount of money looted is not yet known.

Iran

Velayati Urges UN To Push Stalled Peace Talks
LD1904173589 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Geneva, April 19, IRNA—The Islamic Republic has called on the United Nations to revitalize the Iran-Iraq peace talks by demanding an Iraqi troop withdrawal from hundreds of sq kms of Iranian territory.

Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati made the call in a statement Wednesday in which he described Baghdad's refusal to pull out from Iran as "seriously threatening" regional peace. The necessary momentum for the implementation of resolution (598) can only be created through the announcement by the secretary general of the date for the withdrawal and the procedure for its verification," it said.

The statement reminded that eight months after the ceasefire went into effect, Iraq was still occupying more than 2,000 sq kms of Iranian territory.

Velayati linked the continued occupation to Baghdad's "expansionist aspirations" which "seriously threaten peace and stability in our region."

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is fully prepared to embark without further delay upon the full and rapid implementation of Resolution 598, a process which must be revitalized by the immediate withdrawal to the internationally recognized boundaries."

The statement comes a day before the fourth round of peace negotiations under U.N. auspices are to start here at ministerial level after five months of minor contacts between the three sides.

Iran has repeatedly underlined that the negotations to bring a concrete end to nearly eight years of war could not get anywhere unless Iraq ended it's occupation of Iranian land.

Previous calls on the U.N. to intervene and put pressure on Iraq to pull out have fallen on deaf ears as the mediators persist on maintaining a wait-and-see strategy.

Arriving here shortly after the Iranian foreign minister, U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar provided no hints of any new initiative to inject fresh blood into the stalled peace process.

He admitted that the two sides were "still rather far apart" and only referred to a mutual "interest in finding a negotiated solution."

De Cuellar will start off the negotiations at the U.N.'s European headquarters Thursday morning by first holding separate talks with the two foreign ministers.

Further on Arrival Statement
NC2004051789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 20 Apr 89

[Text] Our Foreign Minister Mr 'Ali Akbar Velayati stated the following last night after arriving in Geneva to participate in the fourth round of Iran-Iraq talks under UN auspices: The only way out of the current impasse in the Iran-Iraq talks is by setting the date for the Iraqi forces' withdrawal from Iranian territory and determining a method for monitoring its proper implementation.

The Central News Unit reports that while announcing the Islamic Republic's complete readiness to fully, rapidly, and immediately implement UN Security Council Resolution 598, he said: Apparently the Iraqi officials have not realized that the expansionist and illegal claims that they were unable to fulfill in 8 years of war will not be fulfilled through Resolution 598 either, because such claims threaten the process of peace and stability throughout the region.

Our foreign minister added: If Iraq wants to carry out its commitments as far as Resolution 598 of the Security Council is concerned, it should, as a frist step, withdraw from 2,000 square km of Iranian territory and return to

international borders so that the current impasse in the peace talks can be broken and the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 598 will be fulfilled.

Larijani on Future 'Reasonable' Ties With EEC

NC1904180489 Paris AFP in English 1729 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 19 (AFP)—The former Iranian deputy foreign minister has said that Iran and the European Economic Community (EEC) could forge "reasonable relations" in the future, the ETTELA'AT newspaper reported Wednesday.

Mohammad Javad Larijani, who resigned his post on March 26, said however that any "reasonable relations" between Iran and the EEC had to be linked to the "principle of equity".

Mr Larijani, who currently acts as adviser to Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, accused the United States of setting up obstacles to prevent normalization of ties between Iran and Western Europe.

He also charged that West Germany, which enjoyed good relations with Iran, had modified its policy towards Tehran under U.S. influence.

Mr Larijani said that EEC members behaved with Iran as if it were a "third world country", following the death sentence issued in February by spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni against British novelist Salman Rushdie.

EEC members recalled their ambassadors from Iran in support of Mr Rushdie, who is accused of blasphemy over his novel "The Satanic Verses." But 10 of the 12 envoys have since returned, except for the French ambassador and his British counterpart.

London and Tehran have severed ties over the Rushdie affair.

Mr Larijani said that he resigned last month because he disagreed with some methods used in implementing Iran's foreign policy.

Further on Peace Talks

LD1904193289 Tehran IRNA in English 1825 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 19, IRNA—The former deputy foreign minister for Euro-American affairs was interviewed on the future of peace talks with Iraq, Iran's relations with its neighbours, on diplomatic ties with Western Europe, the U.S. and the Soviet Union, as well as the Salman Rushdie affair which has shocked the Muslim world.

In the interview published in the Persian daily ETTELA'AT today, Mohammad Javad Larijani who resigned last month termed Iraq's stand on U.N. Resolution 598 as "erroneous" and thought that the regime in Baghdad was trying to obtain by negotiations what it could not get through war.

"This is pure folly," he said and added that world strategists believe that once a person is unsuccessful with military arms he is not likely to prove successful on the battleground of politics.

As regards the coming talks in Geneva (to start April 20), he said "I think if the ambition on the part of Iraqis is checked and if the U.N. secretary general should firmly proceed within the framework of 598 then there is ground to hope that we will not proceed towards executing the resolution." [sentence as received]

"No can say that the likelihood of another war is nil," said Larijani and went on to emphasize Iran's "two-fold commitment."

"We have a commitment to peace and are ready to perform our share to that goal, but peace does not mean treading others rights. Peace and security means absence of military invasion in the region. Peace in the absence of territorial integrity is not really peace. We will not hesitate to defend ourselves once we are attacked."

He thought it was not in the interest of other states to attack Iran, because in a state of unrest OPEC members suffer the most damage. The Persian Gulf states form the nuclei of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries though they are hardly aware of their interests, he added.

The foreign ministry deputy stressed that it was the Ba'thist regime in Iraq which advocates unrest in the region in the interest of its policies. And so do outside countries which are fearful of losing their influence. Sometimes peace in this region does not contribute to their vested interests, he noted.

"In my opinion the United States has pursued a policy of creating suspicion among regional states, and especially it has tried to generate fear of Iran in other countries of the region."

Today, said Iran's Larijani our relations with world countris is "very deep and meaningful," and in his opinion there were good ideological grounds for building relations.

He said there have been significant developments in relations with the Soviets, and placed special emphasis on the leader of the Islamic revolution's message to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, which he said "ushered in a new era in our relations with the Soviets."

Last January Larijani had accompanied Imam Khomeyni's special envoy Ayatollah Javadi Amoli to Moscow. The imam's message hailed Gorbachev's reforms "after 70 years of suppression" and asked the Soviet leader to seriously consider Islam as a substitute for the decadent Marxist system.

The USSR has a rapidly tending gypaplus [word as received] million population and the imam had said "communism should henceforward be looked into the museums of political history." [sentence as received]

Larijani, then turned to ties with the West which were initially soured because of their support for the defunct shah and later the Iraqi aggression, and quite recently over Britain's misconstrued stand on "The Satanic Verses." '

One basic error of the Western governments as far as their ties with Iran is concerned has been that of exploiting relations as a means of dictating their own opinions, he regretted.

"Telling us what we should do and what not, that is typical of their relations with the Third World. The Salman Rushdie affair and the historical fatwa [edict] by the imam, however, made it clear that if and when Iran is pushed to a position to choose between protecting Islam and the revolution or relations with Western Europe, the Islamic Republic will definitely choose the former course cost what it may."

Apostasy carries [the] death penalty in Islam, and in accordance with divine laws, the imam decreed the Indian born apostate's execution, a move which was widely hailed around the globe, and which exposed Britain's age-old animosity towards Islam and Muslims.

The novel insults Islam, and Iran to foil the crafty plot had no other choice but to snap ties with London after a week's ultimatum, following the British Government's shocking defense of a criminal with a price on his head.

The British led European Community (EC) withdrawal of envoys from Tehran ended in disaster, and Larijani thought that the satanic issue was sufficient reason for the EC to correct its logic.

"I think they (West Europeans) have by now realized that Iran should never be driven to a point involving a choice between Islam and mere diplomatic ties with a foreign country."

He was particularly harsh on the Americans for trying to drive a wedge between Iran and European governments.

"Whenever Iran's relations with Europe takes a turn towards a fuller development the Americans certainly feel upset. They believe they must ruin this relation and they believe they have the right to allow us to have relations with certain European states and prevent us from having relations with certain others."

The Americans have imposed their will on the Western European countries, and this same reason could well have been behind the U.S. involvement in the developments consequent to the Salman Rushdie affair, said Larijani.

"In my opinion the behaviour of the West German Government with Iran in connection with its relations with Iran is much conditioned by the dictates of the United States..., he concluded. [no closing quotation marks as received]

Editorial Assails Iraq on 'Delays' in Peace Talks

NC1904060289 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 9 Apr 89 p 2

[Unattributed editorial: "Iraqi Delays Detrimental to Peace"]

[Text] Very pathetic indeed it is that even after three rounds of peace talks between Iran and Iraq no concrete results have emerged in the way of a breakthrough in terms of the U.N. ceasefire Resolution 598. A fourth round of talks, however, is scheduled to be held in Geneva later this month in a bid to find a compromise in the stalled talks.

Of course there has been so far some small progress made too, such as an agreement to exchange a few hundred sick and disabled prisoners of war on either side.

A cause for distress in this whole matter, however, is the fact that given the talks' present political crisis, the prospects appear to be dim for any formula to be found, or be in sight, to remove the bottlenecks that have been a cause for bother to all parties at the negotiations.

Iraq does not help much. It may even be that it is in no hurry to help with suggestions that may conduce to a solution o the issues at stake in the peace negotiations. With absurdly miscalculated notions of a quick victory, the Iraqi regime, which started the war, is now trying to justify its colossal blunder to the Iraqi peoples who certainly would not have endorsed such a futile and costly operation. This hardly helps the moves towards a permanent and tangible peace which the people of both countries need in order to move forward on their paths to reconstruction, a stable peaceful and prosperous life.

As things stand Iraq appears to be quite content to carry on with its dilly-dallying on the peace issues and will continue to do so until they are assured that their domestic consumption has been met.

Iran on the other hand has twice the number of war prisoners that Iraq has. Tehran will be no doubt unwilling to release them all until the first article of the U.N. Resolution 598 has been taken up and implemented and in fact until the entire resolution is fully and comprehensively implemented.

What the Iraqi regime does not seem to realize is that a prolongation of this issue can in the long-run pose a serious threat to the Iraqi ruling party. But more than this, the question is whether the international community is at all seriously aware of the dangers that lurk potentially in allowing this matter to ride out its own time.

Anyone genuinely concerned for peace should be aware of the threat of full scale hostilities breaking out. And the numberless ceasefire violations reported on the borders certainly give some cause for alarm. Indeed the entire region can be engulfed in flames this time on a much more gigantic scale. Yet the big powers seem to be happy to allow a deadlock to persist although they are politically capable of exerting the necessary pressures on Iraq to bring about a solution.

Iraq surely calculates that holding on to Iranian territory can be an advantage and this it is certainly doing not discounting the possibility of a war breaking out, or being resumed once more. One has to bear in mind that the Iraqi regime is continuing at a hectic pace to rehabilitate its industry and war-shattered economy.

It is not doing this unaware of the risks and therefore must take into account the advantages or disadvantages it will suffer in the event of a war resuming again. All in all the Iraqis will be reluctant to repeat the bitter experience of the past ten years all over again.

Iraq well knows that this time it will not enjoy the unlimited support of the regional countries. It also knows that it will not have the capability to man and finance a new war which this time may take more than decades to end, if it does start up.

But given all these things, there still seems to be the most remote possibility of an agreement and for this only the Iraqis have to be rebuked. It is high time indeed that the big powers take note that Iraqi delaying tactics are not to the good of all concerned, not at all to the countries directly involved in the conflict or even the others.

Supervisors for Presidential Polls Elected

LD1904140689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Excerpt] During today's Council of Guardians session members of the Central Committee of the council for supervising the fifth round of presidential elections were elected as follows: Mohammad Yazdi, member of the clergy and the head of the Central Committee; Hoseyn Mehr-Parvar, a lawyer and deputy head of the Central Committee; Ahmad Alizadeh, a Central Committee secretary,and also 'Ali Ara, Seyyedreza Taqavi, Mostafa Zarrabi, Asghar Geranmayeh-Pur, Seyyed 'Ali Rukh-Sefat, Ezzotallah Dehqan, and Baqer Nevisi. [passage omitted]

Further on Leaders' Messages on Armed Forces Day

Cabinet Notes Khomeyni Message

LD1904191289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] At a meeting this afternoon, the cabinet remembered the late Dr Asadi Lari, who was a well-known and long-suffering figure of the revolution, who had a long record of political struggle prior to the revolution as a defender of the revolution's lofty values.

At the same meeting Defense Minister Brigadier General Jalali referred to the imam's lofty and kind message to the Army, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] and the Basij and said: The imam's message has reinforced our belief in the fact that his excellency the imam is the true supporter of all the nation's forces, including the Army.

He said: I have the duty on behalf of all the commanders and the personnel of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army to declare, that except for our blood, we have nothing else to sacrifice for the revolution and that we are always ready to sacrifice our blood.

Referring to the imam of the ummah's message on the occasion of Army Day, Prime Minister Musavi said at the same cabinet meeting: The imam's approach to the country's problems is such that it portrays those problems as being small and minute for the human will, as well as human and revolutionary values; it guides everybody toward their basic duties.

The prime minister added: In this message the imam has reminded all the responsible officials in the country that it is their religious and legal duty to defend the Army and the Armed Forces. He warned that weakening the Army, the IRGC and the Basij would yield no results other than to encourage the enemies to commit aggression.

In conclusion Musavi said: God willing, Army Day will be auspicious for all Iran's brave forces; may all Army commanders and personnel receive inspiration from the imam's message and rely on it always to strengthen themselves.

At the same meeting a report was submitted on the latest scientific achievements in the research laboratory for manufacturing optical equipment—results achieved through the crusading efforts of the Industrial University of Sharif and the support of the prime minister. The cabinet was very interested in the report.

These optical pieces have important and wide-ranging uses in military and civilian industries, in reactors, and in mapping and similar equipment.

The cost of these objects in the country in monetary terms amounts to $5 million a year.

President's Message Cited

LD1804173189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0932 GMT 18 apr 89

[President Khamene'i's message marking Armed Forces Day from "The Armed Forces and the Revolution" program; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] For the 10-year resistance, for their presence on the battlefield and before the outbreak of the war with Iraq, the Ground Forces, the Air Force, and the Navy—which have passed difficult tests on the battlefields—for their resistance, their being away from their homes, families, wives, and children during the lengthy war, the people—and it is also my duty—should pay them special attention, endorse, and value them.

Defense Minister's Remarks

LD1804192489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0932 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Hoseyn Jalali's remarks on Armed Forces Day from the "The Armed Forces and the Revolution" program; date, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] The severance of bonds of dependence on foreign powers and the willingness for self-sufficiency in defense industries has been one of the important objectives of our system from the outset. This sacred objective has been reached to a large extent during the years after the revolution, in particular during the 8 years of the imposed war.

The economic and military embargo by world arrogance during the course of the imposed war was in itself an incentive for our own experts and inventors to meet a significant portion of the military needs of the Islamic Republic through their round the clock efforts. Along with all of this, the distinguished services and activities of Iran's defense industries organizations have played an important role in the development of the country's military and defense industries.

The defense industries organization comprises groups of factories in charge of manufacturing ammunitions; chemical and weaponry industries; groups of factories in charge of missiles, mechanical, communications, and electronics, and naval and aviation matters; and the group in charge of defense research and development. All these sections are now able to present a distinguished performance record through the faithful efforts of a devoted and committed staff, experts, and researchers of this organization. Their performance record is a testimony to the unwavering will of the strugglers in the fronts of work and production, who aim to reach self-sufficiency and independence in the defense industries.

In this connection we will now listen to the remarks made by Defense Minister Brig Gen Jalali.

[Jalali] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] In view of my service responsibilities, I would like to emphasize the importance of steadfastness and resistance, and to request vigilance from my fellow combatants. This request in not only addressed to the Armed Forces currently on the front-lines. It is also addresed to all those in charge of support and logistical secotors, in particular the selfless personnel of the defense industries, who have been at the service of our dear combatants during the course of the war with their utmost sincerity and expertise.

You dear personnel of the defense industries organization and the staff of those organs associated with the Defense Ministry must know that—apart from the Almighty's blessing—our brave combatants have vested their hopes in your generous support as their sole real supporter. Therefore, it is incumbent on you that, as in the course of the imposed war, you must serve them with your zeal and ability, so that, God willing, such solidarity may lead to the total disappointment of the enemies of the revolution and our country.

Hasani-Sa'di's Message

LD1804163489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0932 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Armed Forces Day message by Ground Forces Commander Brigadier General Hasani-Sa'di from the "The Armed Forces and the Revolution" program; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] Dear listeners, we draw your attention to the message of the respected commander of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces, Brigadier General Hasani-Sa'di:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Thanks be to Almighty God. My advice to the personnel of the Armed Forces, especially the Ground Forces' personnel and those who are stationed in the operational regions, is that you should draw on the experiences we gained in the course of 8 years of self-sacrifice and struggle, and make every effort in the reconstruction [bazsazi] and building of a strong and powerful Armed Forces to safguard and protect this holy land.

Moreover, we should create an armed force that is healthy in every aspect and for which we will put forth great efforts, each one of us, into its combat preparedness, maintenance, and reconstruction. In this way we may have an Army in a state of preparedness worthy of serving Islam and the Islamic Republic.

Naval Commander's Message

LD1804190989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0932 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Armed Forces Day message by Commodore Malekzadegan, commander of the Islamic Republic's Navy, from "The Armed Forces and the Revolution" program; date, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Salutations and greetings to the brave, courageous, proud, and devout personnel of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Armed Forces Day. On this day, the important message of the dear imam concerning the upgrading, training, and strengthening of the Armed Forces has breathed new life into them. The enemies of our Islamic homeland saw the Armed Forces as a great and strong dam standing firm in the face of their sinister aims to break through and destroy it. Now, this message neutralizes all their conspiracies.

The Armed Forces personnel, with the all-around support from the esteemed officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran's system, acquired morale which had a great deal of impact on their combat strength and power; and it was this same high morale which enabled the Armed Forces to create such epics on the war fronts and to prove their capabilities in actual battle. Due to the faith and strong conviction of the Armed Forces and to the very good experience they acquired in the course of these 8 years of holy defense, I am certain that in the future, they will stand more firmly, strongly, and bravely in the face of any kind of aggression.

The brave Navy personnel on 18 April last year also fought with the world-devouring U.S. warships. It is necessary to remember the dear martyrs of this force, especially the martyrs of this war against the United States, and to honor their memory on this dear day. Just as the people were being informed about the various stages of the war on the sea, in this war with the United States, the destroyer "Sahand," the frigate [navcheh] "Jawshan," and the Sabalan showed in actual deeds that the combative personnal of this force will not be deterred by anything in its defense of the waters of their Islamic homeland.

In addition, in the course of the war we witnessed the fact that we totally destroyed Iraq's Navy in the northern Persian Gulf in those very first months of the war.

The collective operations of the Navy have been generally designed to establish full security and to preserve maritime sovereignty [siyadat] with the complete success which I have mentioned briefly here.

GCHQ Commander's Speech

LD1804164889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0932 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Armed Forces Day Speech by Dr Firozabadi, acting commander of the General Command Headquarters (GCHQ), from "The Armed Forces and the Revolution" program; date, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Koranic verses omitted] Greetings to our great imam, revolutionary ummah, and the brave Armed Forces personnel, the Ground Forces, the Air Force, the Navy, and their honorable families. As acting commander of the GCHQ [General Command Headquarters], on the occasion of Armed Forces Day I congratulate the trench-dwellers of our Islamic homeland—soldiers, Guards Corps members, and mobilization forces, commanders and soldiers—those symbols of bravery, self- sacrifice, and martyrdom.

I greet the pure souls of the martyrs and the honorable families of the martyrs, the dear war disabled [janbazan], the POW's and the missing in action, the fathers and mothers who have bred such children for the defense of our Islamic homeland, and the ladies who have taken on the honor of being wives of soldiers. Long live the youths who have devoted themselves to serving in the Armed Forces and making Iran powerful!

Today, 18 April, is Armed Forces Day. It is really a day to mark the epoch-making and glorious memories of Armed Forces personnel; a day to remember their praiseworthy resistance against the enemies; a day to remember the self-sacrifices, the crusades, and bravery of the Armed Forces; a day to honor the martyrs; a day to mark the self-sacrifices of the Armed Forces personnel; and a day to honor the integrity, bravery, and defense of the Islamic homeland's honor.

The important point that I want to emphasize to our dear nation, the soldiers, Guards Corps members, and the mobilization forces is that today every Iranian should realize the importance of national security. Everybody should think of strengthening the country's defenses; that is, the plans and the publicity should be that way. Armed Forces Day should be honored in such a way as to make the people realize their duty. [passage omitted]

In a word, I say that we should call Armed Forces Day a day of feasting for the military. This is a day in which they will remember the past, plan for the future, and reaffirm their holy allegience to God and the people. On Armed Forces Day, we should stand alongside each other and thank God for His great blessings, the Islamic government, the leadership of the rule of the jurisconsult, the security and might of our homeland, and the unity of our nation.

I state here that the enemies of the revolution and the country have been making plans for these days. You must remember that last year the criminal United States attacked our Navy's small battleships "Jowshan," "Sahand," and "Sabalan" that were patrolling the coastline of our Islamic homeland. A number of Navy heroes were martyred. Of course, they miscalculated. With that action, they increased Iran's present-day greatness and honor.

I congratulate the honorable families of the dear and worthy martyrs. We are proud of these people and their families who have created such glories. We hope that God will give them a suitable reward. Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

Battle Against U.S. Recalled

LD1904164189 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 19, IRNA—The first martyrdom anniversary of Iranian seamen killed in action against the intruding U.S. fleet in the Persian Gulf was commemorated today.

The foreign fleets had ventured into the Persian Gulf "under the guise of navigation safety" to help out the badly battered Iraqi Navy, said Imam Khomeyni's representative to the Army Hojjat ol-Eslam Gholamreza Safa'i.

"Despite their (foreign forces) wishful thinking, the Iranian Navy powerfully carried out its missions in the southern waters, especially the searching of suspicious ships in the Strait of Hormuz," he said.

On April 19, 1988, after the unprovoked U.S. attack on Iran's purely economic oil platforms of Salman and Nasr midway between the Iranian and UAE coasts, the frigate "Jowshan" sallied forth for an unequal battle with the superior U.S. fleet, and fought to the last round of ammunition and to the last breath.

During the naval encounter, the U.S. mercenaries backed by warplanes and helicopter gunships even unmanly strafed Iranian marines who had jumped overboard the damaged frigate.

At the same time, southwards near the Hormuz Strait the destroyers "Sahand" and "Sabalan" engaged the U.S. fleet for its acts of piracy in the Persian Gulf.

Elaborating on the epic sea battle of the frigate "Jowshan" and destroyers "Sahand" and "Sabalan" with the U.S. Fleet, Hoj. Safa'i noted that the Iranian ships though badly damaged in the clashes resisted the enemy's bullying.

Meanwhile, guns boomed and helicopters showered flowers on the sites of clashes in the Persian Gulf today as a mark of respect for the brave Navy and IRGC personnel who courted martyrdom against the aggressor U.S. fleet.

The day was remembered when Iran's Muslims had gallantly took on the might of the American fleet sending shudders down its spine.

The Islamic Revolutions Guards' Corps also held commemorative ceremonies in the capital to commemorate the martyrdom of their personnel in the naval clashes.

Last year the heroic personnel of the first IRGC naval zone attacked the aggressor U.S. warships and helicopters with their speed boats inflicting heavy blows, Chief of the Staff of the IRGC naval forces 'Ali Akbar Ahmadiyan recalled at the ceremony.

The IRGC in fast-speed boats had been a constant nightmare for the huge U.S. invasion force.

Message From Air Force Officer

LD1804170889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0932 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Armed Forces Day message by Air Force Colonel 'Abbas Ariyan-Nezhad from "The Armed Forces and the Revolution" program; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings to the imam of the ummah and praise be on the martyrs of the Islamic revolution and the imposed war. I am an Air Force colonel and my name is 'Abbas Ariyan-Nezhad. I offer my congratulations on 18 April, Armed Forces Day, in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The martyr nurturing ummah of Iran are quite aware that after the outbreak of the imposed war our Ground Forces were taken by surprise and were therefore not ready to confront the aggressive forces to defend the country. The Air Force taught the enemy a lesson and pinned him down on one sector, thanks to the bravery and endeavors of the Air Force's technical cadre and courageous, selfless pilots. I destinctly remember that during the first days of the war I was given a mission to fly behind Karkheh Kor and the Shush River to stop the invading enemy forces. As the enemy forces were close to my base, I came under enemy fire from the moment I took off. But because of their fear of our Air Force, they fired aimlessly.

After reaching a point where I was supposed to fly at a higher altitude and then dive down, I noticed that perhaps over 1 million [word indistinct] bullets were flying toward my plane. The sky was quite red and shells were exploding around me in the air, a spectacular situation for a fighter pilot. My mission was to hit enemy tanks and stop the invading forces. Therefore, I tried to attack in a way that would destroy as many tanks as possible in a single attack. For this purpose, I turned my plane sideways for a better view and to judge my subsequent action.

As you are aware, Iraqi tanks of that time each had an anti-aircraft gun mounted on it. All these guns were firing in defense. There was a point when the whole sky was full of bullets. I selected an area where the tanks had concentrated. It seemed that it was their command headquarters, a place where they were concentrated. I released my bombs.

I learned a lesson on that occasion, one that was very important to me and to my future flights: Not even one enemy's bullet hit my plane! I believe this was an example of divine assistance. God is truly a friend and assistant of those who defend religion and the heavenly book.

U.S. Behind Egyptian Defense Minister's Removal

LD1804191189 Tehran IRNA in English 1810 GMT 17 Apr 89

["Egypt Attempts To Downplay Significance of Change of Defence Min."—IRNA headline]

[Text] Athens, April 18, IRNA—A well-informed Middle East source told IRNA that the removal of 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah from the post of Egypt's defence minister means an end to his political influence and career in the country.

President Husni Mubarak in an unexpected move last Saturday appointed Abu Ghazalah to the new post of 'presidential assistant.' He was replaced at the Defence Ministry by Cairo Governor Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib.

The post of defence minister in Egypt is considered to be the most significant after the president, whereas the post of presidential assistant is mere cosmetic, the source said.

Meanwhile the daily AL-AHRAM, which expreses the Egyptian regime's thinking, in a front-page editorial Tuesday said after eight years of service as defence minister Abu Ghazalah was 'tired'.

"Every official has a limit to strength which he cannot overstep no matter how true his intention is to exert and to serve his country," the daily said referring to foreign media reports of a power struggle between Mubarak and Abu Ghazalah.

Abu Ghazalah, considered to be a staunch U.S. supporter, was replaced only a few weeks after Mubarak's trip to Washington.

According to some Middle East observers the U.S. was displeased with reports that Egypt was producing chemical weapons. U.S. officials were also unhappy of smuggling of American high-technology material to Egypt for construction of missiles and believed that Abu Ghazalah was behind these developments.

He was hence removed as defence minister on the instigation of the U.S., they confided.

Daily Cited on Plots To 'Isolate' Republic

LD1904064189 Tehran IRNA in English 0630 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 19, IRNA—An Iranian newspaper has considered in an editorial today that the European Community (EC) is working in line with U.S. plots to isolate the Islamic Republic so that Iran will be forced to have closer look at the possibility of expanding its relations with Eastern countries.

In this connection, the TEHRAN TIMES attached great importance to the forthcoming visit of President 'Ali Khamene'i to China and North Korea early next month and to the summer trip of the acting Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the Soviet Union.

According to the English-language newspaper, the review of the 11th Irano-Soviet Joint Commission on May 11 with respect to the conditions of the time, also enjoys special importance.

The daily noted that the Tehran-Moscow relations have expanded following the Iran-Iraq ceasefire and the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan as well as certain other factors such as the deterioration of relations between Iran and European Economic Community.

Referring to the fact that the EC is presently the biggest trading partner of Iran, it notified that "if in the coming years, relations between Iran and the Common Market remain at their present levels, other countries, such as the Soviet Union and the Pacific nations will replace the EC as the biggest trading partner of the Islamic Republic."

Of course, the paper concluded, the policy of the Soviet Union on the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 in the coming few days will be among determining factors for the results of Mr. Rafsanjani's trip.

Khamene'i on 'Western Elements' in Afghanistan

LD2503123689 Tehran IRNA in English 1205 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Mashhad, March 25, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i has called the replacement of the recently pulled-out Soviet troops by "Western elements" in Afghanistan as unacceptable.

The president was addressing a rally Friday in Torbat-e Jam, 45 kms from the Afghan border in Khorasan Province, where 75,000 Afghan refugees have been settled in camps.

"We cannot bear that the replacement of Soviet troops with Western elements," he said. "The fate of the Afghan nation is completely related to ours."

President Khamene'i who is touring the northeastern province of Khorasan also warned against propaganda aimed at creating discord among Shi'as and Sunnis. Half the population of Torbat-e Jam are Sunnis.

On the past-war reconstruction of the country, he referred to the enemies' efforts to create the illusion among people that the war-devastated areas could be quickly rebuilt.

"Post-war reconstruction is a battle by itself and an arduous one which is impossible to be realized without the people's support," the president emphasized.

Khamene'i has so far toured two other Khorasan cities of Fariman and Taybad and held talks with the local people and officials.

Ethiopian Foreign Minister Meets Khamene'i

EA1804202589 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] The ETHIOPIAN NEWS AGENCY today reported that Comrade Berhanu Bayeh, member of the Central Committee of the WPE [Workers Party of Ethiopia] and minister of foreign affairs, continuing his working visit abroad, yesterday held talks with President 'Ali Khamene'i of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The foreign minister conveyed the best wishes of President Mengistu Haile Mariam to President Khamene'i and through him to the people of Iran.

Delegations of Iran and the PDRE, [People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia] led by their respective foreign ministers, meanwhile, held discussions on bilateral relations and regional issues.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD1904102189 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 19, IRNA—Ethiopian Foreign Minister Berhanu Bayeh left Tehran Wednesday morning at the end of a four-day visit and after signing a protocol on formation of a joint economic commission. He and the accompanying delegation were seen off at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport by acting Minister of Commerce 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji and First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati.

Bayeh described his talks with Iranian officials as useful in promoting bilateral ties and expressed the hope that Tehran-Addis Ababa relations will expand further in the future.

Foreign Minister Receives New Nigerian Envoy

LD1804193189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] The new Nigerian ambassador has presented his credentials to Foreign Minister Velayati. Bashir Vali, the new Nigerian ambassador, emphasized the expansion of bilateral ties. He further expressed satisfaction with the process of talks between Iran and Iraq.

In reply, Mr Velayati emphasized the expansion of bilateral relations. He also said he sought greater cooperation between the two countries in various fields, particularly within OPEC. He emphasized the importance of exchanging delegations and welcomed the expansion of economic ties in view of the existing grounds for all-embracing mutual cooperation.

Commentary on Growing Fundamentalism in Turkey

NC1504114489 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1615 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Commentary from the "Weekly Report" feature: "Turkey at the Crossroads"]

[Excerpts] The emergence of fundamentalism and the escalation of Islamic tendencies in Turkey have given rise to the concern being felt by Turkey's state and military officials over Muslims' future political-social activities in that country. The Muslims' powerful showing on Turkey's political-social scene was seen during the recent elections there and in the relative supremacy enjoyed by the parties and groups with Islamic and religious tendencies in comparison with past years.

Ninety-nine percent of Turkey's approximately 50-million strong population is Muslim. This is at a time when, ever since the anti-religious and pro-Western reforms by Kemal Ataturk, the spirit of the Turkish Government's policies and laws have been secular and anti-religious, and when Turkey's political-military officials have stressed the need to implement such policies and stressed the government's anti-religious position.

On the other hand, Turkey's economic-political objectives, which are aimed at removing economic bottlenecks and difficulties and reducing the extent of domestic crises and inflation, have intensified the anti-religious and secular tendencies of Turkey's officials and statesmen. This is because the Turkish Government has, for the solution of its problems and for overcoming its economic crisis, has turned to Europe for financial and economic assistance and requested admission to the EEC. However, the EEC has set out certain conditions before it will accept Turkey's request.

Uprooting Islamic fundamentalism and struggling against the Islamic beliefs of Turkish Muslims, particularly in the universities, are among the most important

conditions propounded by the EEC. The Turkish Government and officials are under strong pressure by domestic officers and the EEC to fulfill this condition. [passage omitted]

Concerned over the Islamic tendencies of Muslims in regional Islamic countries—a clear manifestation of which was seen in the recent incident of Salman Rushdie and "The Satanic Verses"—the Turkish officials have again reemphasized the issue of banning Islamic attire for female university students and placed new pressures on these students in order to force them to follow government decisions. In this connection, we recently witnessed protests by Muslims in Turkish cities, particularly in Istanbul, as well as the opposition voiced by Turkey's pious university students.

Thus, the government and officials of Turkey are at a crossroads. They can choose to join the EEC and fulfill its conditions, or they can decide not to provoke Islamic tendencies and thereby reduce the waves of protests by Turkish Muslims.

Naturally, this situation has given rise to two tendencies and factions among Turkish statesmen. The officials under the leadership of Turkey's President General Evren attach significance to the threat of Islamic tendencies in Turkey and to joining the EEC, and they call for a belligerent approach to the wave of Islamic tendencies and to the Turkish people's Islamic beliefs. For example, they place special emphasis on observing the ban on Islamic attire in the universities.

The second faction, which consists of a number of pragmatic statesmen, particularly Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, is trying, by preserving Turkey's general principles and economic objectives and the secular policy of Turkey's laws, to find a less dangerous and more peaceful path leading to the implementation of the government's objectives and policies. Thus, they have a more moderate approach to the expansion of Islamic beliefs in Turkey, and they consider the extremist approach as being detrimental to the Turkish Government and its objectives, and as something that will lead to a confrontation with Muslims.

Although the Ozal government lost its position in the recent Turkish elections because of its liberal economic policy and the consequent harm and its fall in the upcoming elections is a possibility, nevertheless, any faction that heads the Turkish Government will, despite its intrinsic tendencies and opinions, have no alternative but to come to terms with the religious desires and beliefs of the Turkish Muslims in order to avoid dangerous results and any intensification of the wave of domestic protests.

Editorial Criticizes Turkish Film Festival

NC1604073089 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 3 Apr 89 p 11

[Unattributed commentary: "The Turkish Government in the Trap of the West's Temptations"]

[Text] The Muslim officials of Turkey have selected the blasphemous film "The Last Temptation of Christ" for screening at the Eighth Istanbul Film Festival, which will start on 8 April and last for a week. The screening of this film, which is an ugly insult to one of the prophets, Christ, peace be upon Him, is taking place in tandem with the incidents over the blasphemous book by Salman Rushdie. The common denominator in these two cultural plots of aggression against religious sanctities gives rise to the question: What is the objective behind these suspicious acts that are so unsparingly and so overtly supported by world arrogance?

It is clear that the engineers of these incidents regard religion with contempt and intend to denigrate religion by unleashing their strong propaganda weapons, by casting their wretched objectives as culturally acceptable, and finally, by foisting new temptations on society in a bid to create chaos in religious and ideological beliefs. Of course, the sharp edge of this attack is aimed at the foundations of Islam.

How is this cultural aggression on the sanctities of millions of pious human beings by advocating freedom of thought and speech justified? And how do even Muslim countries fall into the trap of such plots?

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes this blasphemous film is an insult to the Holy Christ, peace be upon Him, in particular, and to all the prophets in general. It believes the screening of this film in a Muslim country is another plot in the war against divine religions, a war that stems from the fear felt because of the role that religion plays in awakening oppressed nations. This is why the Islamic Republic of Iran prevented the officials of this film festival from screening an Iranian film.

The pious Christians of the world, in addition to the extensive official religious organs, should not remain silent in the face of such plots. They should make the voice of their protest heard by the covert engineers of such expressions of freedom of speech, and should stop such corruption immediately.

It is clear that this plot was hatched by world arrogance and international Zionism. By agreeing to screen this insulting film, the Istanbul Film Festival has actually endorsed the continuation of this process.

Salman Rushdie, as the manifestation of an anti-cultural, anti-social, anti-moral and anti-religious process, is dead now. The next step should be to block any new plots by the arrogant powers against religious sanctities, particularly if these plots are carried out with the help of a Muslim country.

The world's people have now become the target of aggression, and only the alertness of nations can thwart this savage aggression. This hostile position on the part of the arrogant powers shows that the issue is a serious one and that this time, the very fundamentals of belief are the target of aggression.

The irresponsible attitude shown by the Istanbul Film Festival's organizers, at a time when the Salman Rushdie affair is still very much alive, is actually an expression of solidarity with old British colonialism and other engineers of this affair, and it smacks of coordination. Selecting this insulting film for the Istanbul Film Festival actually adds a new dimension in the pre-planned plot that is being implemented within a chain, and each link of this chain is a coordinated act by the arrogant powers' propaganda machinery.

In the current battle that has been sparked off by the West's propaganda machinery, it is not becoming for the voice of a Muslim country, as pro-Western as it may be, to be heard singing in unison with this machinery.

Commentary Urges Uprooting of 'Impure Process'
NC1604143489 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 4 Apr 89 pp 1, 12

[Unattributed commentary: "The Root"]

[Text] Until now irreparable damage has been inflicted on the Islamic revolution because of indecisiveness and negligence. Negligence toward offenders, in many cases, has created problems for the revolution and society and, in turn, has inflicted irreparable blows. Even though these shortcomings have generally stemmed from broad-mindedness and goodwill, repeated experiences and the facts show that the interests of the system should not be sacrified for the interests of an individual. This leaves no doubt of the need to confront the causes of trouble.

Those who until yesterday tried to utter their words through the mouths of "gullible but well-meaning people" do not have such grounds to act on today. They have chosen another ground so that they can continue to pursue their sinister objectives. On the pretext of feeling sorry for people whose sanctity is not in doubt, these people try to question a more superior sanctity and to harm the foundation.

Some uninformed but pure in heart people here and there may also be fooled by these impostors and raise their voices in unison with them, but the impostors themselves know that these provocations are all in vain. So long as the people remain unaware of the nature of these impostors, the possibility continues to exist that they may exploit the gullibility of some in order to mislead and fool them. However, do these impostors know that if their nature is revealed some day they will not dare to emerge from their holes, out of fear of the people?

They should know that the people heed the imam's decrees and that they will settle their accounts with them when the time comes. As Imam Khomeyni pointed out in his decree appointing Ayatollah Jannati head of the Islamic Propagation Organization: "The system is serious in its objectives and does not jest with anyone." Troublemakers and obstructionists should understand fully the meaning of this and realize they must put an end to their mischiefs.

Moreover, here is a noteworthy point: If these people do not agree to give up their mischiefs, what will the duty of the relevant officials be?

Should not the security officials consider the fact that impure elements should be dealt with seriously and decisively? Is it not a decisive duty to strike at "the root?"

The root of the impure process which was trying to utter its words through the mouths of "gullible but well-meaning people" is obvious. If this root is not dried up—again because of "negligence" and "indecisiveness"—then how can one trust that this root will not emerge from another place and in another form? This method conforms with the observance of individual interests and not the interests of the system. Is it necessary to once again point out that the interests of the system take priority over all other issues? And will today's negligence not lead to regrets tomorrow?

Editorial Examines Montazeri's Resignation
NC1604175089 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 30 Mar 89 p 10

[Editorial: "The Interests of the System Take Priority Over All Other Issues"]

[Text] As we end the 1st week of the new year, an important incident is behind us. Ayatollah Montazeri's announcement on his unpreparedness to undertake the deputy leadership and the acceptance of this announcement by the imam is an important event, with various implications. Although these implications must be discussed, nevertheless it is more important now to note that occurrences of this kind, of such significance and with such implications, are natural for a revolution. The strength of the Islamic revolution lies in the fact that it can firmly leave such incidents behind and continue on its natural course.

Commentaries and analyses on this incident by the various propaganda media of the Islamic revolution's enemies have already started. But they are, as always, very far from truth. The very inability of the enemies of

the Islamic revolution to understand issues itself shows the grandeur of the revolution and the contemptuous attitude of the opponents and obstinate ones.

What happened this week was, first and foremost, a manifestation of the alertness, firmness, and decisiveness of the revolution's leadership. These are the very characteristics that ensure that the future course of the revolution is healthy. These characteristics have saved the revolution in the past from the whirlpools of various incidents, leading it to its victory and to its current success.

In view of what has been stated in the imam's answer to Ayatollah Montazeri, the issues pertaining to this have been clarified and no doubts remain. Expressing his great affection, the imam states in his response: "In order that former mistakes are not repeated I advise you to cleanse your household of unsuitable individuals and seriously prevent the comings and goings of opponenets of the system who pretend to be in favor of Islam and the Islamic Republic."

It seems that everything has been said in this sentence. The conclusion drawn from the recent incident by any realistic person who bears in mind the imam's words will be that respect for individuals and their value should be separated from the lofty interests of Islam, which take priority over individuals. The Islamic revolution has numerous spiteful enemies—enemies who, with deceitful faces and sly words, are trying to destroy Islam and who spare no treachery or crime in order to achieve their sinister objectives.

These people are too clever to appear on the scene themselves and cast off their masks to reveal their faces to the people. They have always tried to exploit the sanctity of others as a means to achieve their ends. A brief but very clear explanation of this point is exactly what the imam gave in his 22 March message. The imam said: "The infiltrating agents have repeatedly declared that their words emerge from the mouths of gullible but well-meaning people."

Therefore, all complacency and negligence should be set aside so that on the one hand, sanctity is preserved and on the other, the "infiltrating agents" are prevented from taking advantage and using gullible people to utter their words. There is no doubt that the interests of Islam take priority over the prices that may have to be paid as a result of decisive measures.

The important incident that took place in the 1st week of the new year should be regarded and assessed as something completely different from other incidents and from this very angle. If this incident is looked at from this angle, then the significance of what hapened this week will be clarified.

What complements the analysis of this incident is the profound understanding that the imam's clearsightedness and firmness in his approach to this incident is more important than the incident itself. And the point that should be made here is that if there is no clearsightedness and firmness, it will not be possible to lead a revolution of such grandeur with so many spiteful enemies. The imam's assertion at the beginning of his response to Ayatollah Montazeri that "the leadership of the Islamic Republic is a dificult, heavy, and august responsibility" can be better understood by bearing this in mind.

At any rate, what has happened has definitely been and will be in the interests of the revolution and Islam, and what is important is that everyone should be able to understand that "in Islam, the interests of Islam take priority over all other issues and all of us should abide by that." Moreover, it is also extremely important to note that we should not think that with this incident an end has been put to the temptations by the liberals and the infiltration of agents of the monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] in households and centers with the intention of inflicting harm on the Islamic revolution.

The opponents of the system, who pretend to be in favor of Islam and the Islamic Republic, will continue to pursue their sinister objectives. Therefore, it seems that confronting the infiltrating elements on the one hand and watching attentively and closely all those who, in one way or another, may be exploited by these infiltrating elements on the other, are necessities that should not be avoided.

ETTELA'AT on Reasons for Resignation

NC1604180089 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 3 Apr 89 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "The Revolution and the System Are Higher Than Individuals and Personalities"]

[Text] Even though on 1 April 1980, when the vast majority of the Iranian nation voted in favor of the Islamic Republic and the establishment of Islamic rule, the people were generally aware that this revolution and this system would face many plots and much opposition, nevertheless no one sensed the grandeur and complicated nature of what was to take shape and lead to what we saw happening in March this year.

Today we see that the Islamic system, its grandeur and significance, and the safeguarding of its interests are such that the second personality of this very system and this very revolution resigns from his position as deputy leader. We see how despite this, the revolution and the system continue on their way. According to the president and Tehran Friday imam, the more profoundly one studies this, the more one fathoms its significance.

...Undoubtedly, what is referred to here as interest can, up to a certain extent, be said to be different from a secular interest. This is not a worldly interest. Nor is it an interest that is usually propounded in relation to the power of an individual, group, or class. It is neither a

power interest nor a money interest. Interest here is meant in its true sense. It is not against reality, but is reality itself, because it is based on genuine criteria. One can probably say that the acceptance of this recent incident was, for the imam, tantamount to drinking yet another cup of poison. But interests and basic and fundamental principles are an undeniable reality.

...Before this recent great incident occurred and before Ayatollah Montazeri's resignation from his position as deputy leader, those who justly worried about the future of the revolution and the leadership were many. Leadership requires sincerity as well as firmness. In the very beginning, before he was appointed as the future leader, Ayatollah Montazeri was so overwhelmed that one can say that he lacked the second quality. Political acumen, unimpressionability, understanding of the people and individuals surrounding one, decisiveness, the ability to control hurt feelings, caution in receiving reports and views of others and acting hastily on these are all important characteristics a leader needs and should have innately.

If a leader lacks these, he cannot lead a society through turmoil and difficult crises. And this is contrary to the interest of the revolution and the system. In other words, if this is the case, then the life of the revolutionary system is threatened.

When the leadership of the revolution can leave the framework of divine commandments in order to ensure the true and basic interest of the system and of the revolution (we recall the contents of the imam's letter to the president and Tehran Friday imam in 1366 [year ending 20 March 1987]), and can suspend several Islamic decrees for the sake of interest, he can take away the responsibilities and positions given to individuals and personalities, no matter how high the rank of the person in question. Or he can endorse the elimination of positions and responsibilities altogether.

As revered, great, and dear as the deputy leader may be, the revolution is more revered, greater, and dearer than he. And if it is a matter of choice between the two, then naturally the second has priority.

Montazeri's Resignation Not Due to 'Criticism'

NC1904085189 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 5 Apr 89 p 1

[Editorial: "Criticism?"]

[Text] The foreign mass media sometimes mixes Ayatollah Montazeri's resignation with criticism and comment, alleging that the recent incident was the result of comment and criticism; namely, criticisms by Ayatollah Montazeri which were carried on the radio, television, and in the press.

The truth is that it has been a few years since Ayatollah Montazeri criticized, in his meetings and messages, one organ or another, or these organs' activities, and issued warnings. However, no one opposes the spirit of criticism. Even the imam in his famous message to the president in 1987 clarified that criticism is a divine gift. And he has also criticized and issued warnings whenever the need has risen.

The imam's criticism of the judiciary is a clear and interesting example, as are his messages to various officials and organizations. His speeches and interviews are full of criticism. The speeches by the Majlis deputies are, in general, other such examples. The topics discussed in the newspapers, too, are sometimes filled with criticism.

Therefore, in Ayatollah Montazeri's case the spirit of criticism is not the issue. The issue is first of all not criticism, but is frequently the expression of the views of anti-state and counterrevolutionary groups. This expression stemmed from the influence of remarks, contacts, and suggestions by persons who do not believe either in the leadership or the system, or even in Ayatollah Montazeri as such. Secondly, in many cases, incorrect and false reports were rapidly accepted by the ayatollah, after which hasty remarks and decisions were made and actions were taken.

Third, the opponents of the system and of the revolution were easily able to infiltrate his household and to go so far as to read his confidential letters that were later published in the counterrevolutionary and foreign press, becoming weapons in the hands of the liberals, the hyocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization], and criminals.

Fourth, people like Mehdi Hashemi and his gang were easily able to infiltrate his household and also influence the tone of his work to evoke happy dreams for the future and to think of what can only be described as a coup. They were even ready—and they later confessed to this—and wanted to assassinate Ayatollah Montazeri at the right moment.

The conclusions drawn by the imam from all these events in the long run was that the deputy leader was easily influenced and that even the opponents of the revolution and the enemies of the nation could feign meekness in front of him and then use him as a mouthpiece. He also concluded that criminal individuals and gangs could easily infiltrate the household of the deputy leader and his entourage and carry out any act, including murder, under the aegis of his name, without fearing anything.

Editorial Suggests Observer Status in AOPEC

NC1904055289 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 5 Apr 89 p 2

[Unattributed editorial: "AOPEC Should Invite Iran, Others as Observers"]

[Text] Following the rather fruitful session of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' [OPEC] eight-nation market monitoring committee held in Vienna last week, a relative hike is once again being observed in the oil market.

Oil prices rose above 21 dollars a barrel on Friday after eight OPEC oil ministers appeared united for stable prices. Algeria, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Nigeria, and Venezuela are the members of the committee monitoring the OPEC market.

Although there are signs that the quota system determined by OPEC may not be observed by United Arab Emirates, some other factors, such as Saudi Arabia's present oil policy, brighten up the otherwise gloomy prospects.

Meanwhile demands set forth by Kuwait for an increase in the consortium's production ceiling of 18.5 million to 20 million barrels per day (bpd) can stir up and adversely affect the world market. However, this not too well-thought-out demand, also aired by the U.A.E., seems unlikely to get the nod from the member countries.

By and large, however, it may be concluded that the monitoring committee meet which has been busy preparing the ground for the coming OPEC ministerial session in June has been a relative success. Surveying the current situation in the oil market and examining the possibility of adopting new measures in order to further stabilize the oil market were among other goals of the meet.

One factor which can prove a bottleneck in the June sesison appears to be the supply by some member countries of their reserved crude oil without regard for market demand. A relative fall can therefore be expected in the oil prices in the second three months of the year as the result of a slump in demand.

But still it can be predicted that the ordinary session of the 13-nation OPEC in June will also be one of the most successful meetings of the oil cartel during recent years if only an amicable political atmosphere persists. Meanwhile the issue of demand for additional quotas by some member countries like Kuwait has already been brought up at a ministerial session of the Arab Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (AOPEC). Beyond any shade of doubt all other OPEC members expect AOPEC to refuse such proposals, that are more of a bane than boon, in a bid to support the OPEC's function and identity.

It can be suggested, however, that Iran and some other members be appointed as observers at the AOPEC sessions in order to provide the basic grounds for further understanding and coordination between Iran and OPEC's Arab members.

IRC Guards Seize Narcotics; Smugglers Hanged

8 Held for Drug Smuggling

LD1504095389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] During the current week, the Islamic Revolution Committee [IRC] Guards of Gorgan discovered 25 kilograms of opium resin, together with six vehicles and 4,080,000 rials of cash from eight smugglers who were sent to the Islamic revolution court of Gorgan.

Drugs Seized, Dealers Hanged

LD1504114989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Nine more merchants of death were executed today in Gonbad, Shiraz, and Abadeh on charges of participation in the purchase and sale of 931 kilograms of opium, 23.9 kilogram of opium resin, and 10 kilograms of heroin. [passage omitted]

Islamic Revolution Committee Guards of Tehran, Gorgan, and Bandar-e 'Abbas arrested 10 merchants of death and discovered and seized 85 kilograms of different opium-related substances within the past 24 hours, a Central News Unit report. The Islamic Revolution Committee announced that a number of weapons and vehicles were also discovered and seized, and the accused, together with the narcotics, were handed over to the relevant authorities.

'Successful' Campaign Noted

LD1704141989 Tehran Irna in English 1405 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Zanjan, April 17, IRNA—More than 420 professional drug smugglers have been executed throughout Iran since the enforcement of he new drug law on January 21, commander of the Islamic revolution's committee of Qazvin announced today.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Alikhani [name as received] termed the new law against the "death merchants" as "successful" and said addiction will be eradicated from Iran provided the anti-drug campaign continues powerfully. Establishment of labour camps for drug addicts has played an important role in rehabilitation of these people, and Qazvin was the first city to set up such camps, Hoj. Alikhani said. "Addicts have so far planted some 15,000 saplings along the Qazvin-Abyek highway," he added.

The new drug law was put into force from January 21 preceded with a six-month deadline to traffickers and addicts. It has so far borne significant results throughout the country.

Meanwhile, commander of the Islamic revolution's committees for West Azarbayjan Province announced that labour camps are being in built in the province to lodge provincial addicts.

10 Narcotic Traffickers Hanged

LD1804125489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Excerpts] The antinarcotics headquarters has announced: In accordance with the policy to continue the relentless struggle against the merchants of death, this morning 10 drugs traffickers were hanged in Birjand, Qa'en Torbat-e Heydariyeh, Torbat-e Jam, Sonqor, and Bushehr. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Commentary Criticizes Kabul Move for UN Debate

BK2004055089 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Mohammad Yamin commentary]

[Text] Taking advantage of its patron's (the Soviet Union) presidency of the UN Security Council for the current month, the Kabul regime called for a debate at the UN body on its allegations against Pakistan of interference in Afghanistan. As observed by the Saudi Arabian ambassador while participating in the debate, the discussion on the subject by the Security Council at this stage lacked legitimacy for more than one reason.

The complainants have been rejected by the Afghan people and they are no longer in control of more than a few fortified major cities. For this very reason, the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] has now given its Afghan seat to the interim government set up by the mujahidin. The ICO representative addressing the council, in fact, called upon the Najibullah regime, which he considered unrepresentative and illegal, to step down in favor of a representative government to facilitate the return of normalcy in Afghanistan.

After the departure of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan, the infighting in that country is a purely internal matter for the Afghans to settle among themselves. Any attempt to internationalize the question again will only generate confusion, and delay its final solution. As stated by the U.S. chief delegate to the Security Council, the Kabul attempt to use the UN mechanism can only be seen as a move to perpetuate its illegal rule and withhold a political settlement against the Afghan people's desire.

After their long, heroic struggle against a superpower, in which millions sacrificed their lives and many a million were rendered homeless, the Afghans could hardly be expected to accept interference from any quarter whatsoever. Likewise, their attention can hardly be distracted by diversional moves, such as the one made by the Kabul regime at the United Nations.

As for the violations [words indistinct] of the Geneva accords, the UN observer mission based in Afghanistan and Pakistan is responsible for and capable of handling the related complaints. It is with this mission that such (?efforts) should be lodged for prompt response and on-site clarifications. It is therefore obvious that taking of such matters to the Security Council is designed to serve as a propaganda ploy and to retard the process of a comprehensive settlement.

Other desperate measures by the Najibullah faction, such as the firing of a Scud missile into Pakistan, cannot help sustain it for long. It has to face the inevitable sooner or later. It would therefore be best for her to see the clear writing on the wall and without further loss of time avoid more bloodshed of innocent Afghans and bow before the will of the people.

Pakistan is determined to fulfill its obligations under the Geneva accords. It has therefore a genuine and legitimate interest in an early and durable solution of the Afghan problem, so that peace prevails there once again and 3.5 million refugees can return to Afghanistan voluntarily. It is Pakistan's sincere belief that only a representative government in Kabul can bring about the right conditions for this.

The formation of the Afghan shura and the election of the interim government with Professor Mojaddedi as president is the first important step in that direction. Without actually interfering in Afghan internal affairs, Pakistan will continue to do all it can to encourage the evolution of a fully-representative, broad-based government for Afghanistan.

New Sind Governor Administered Oath 19 Apr

BK1904164889 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Mr Fakhruddin Bin Ibrahim, a former judge of the Supreme Court, was sworn in as the new governor of Sind in Karachi this evening. He replaces retired Justice Qadeeruddin Ahmad, who had tendered his resignation. The chief justice of Sind high court, Mr Justice Mohammad Ajmal Mian, administered the oath.

Sri Lanka

Talks With Tamil Group To Open 'Next Week'

BK2004095489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0930 GMT 20 Apr 89

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Text] Colombo, April 20 (AFP)—President Ranasinghe Premadasa offered fresh peace talks to anti-government Sinhalese militants as troops stepped up operations against the rebels after a week-long truce failed to end violence in Sri Lanka.

Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said here late Wednesday that the government was awaiting a response from the Sinhalese Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, People's Liberation Front) group to the latest peace initiative.

Official talks with the dominant Tamil separatist group were scheduled to open next week, he told reporters after the weekly cabinet meeting.

Mr. Wijeratne said Anton Balasingham, the London-based main political strategist of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), would fly in here in the middle of next week for a direct dialogue with the government.

The minister admitted that a government-declared week-long unilateral ceasefire had ended Wednesday without the expected results and some 105 people, including 41 Sri Lankan security personnel, were killed during the truce.

Officials in southern Hambantota District, a JVP bastion, said security forces had begun a house-to-house hunt for JVP suspects following a series of landmine attacks against troops and police during the ceasefire.

The truce was intended to persuade the JVP, which has its base among the majority Sinhalese community, and the LTTE to give up violence and join mainstream politics. Both rejected it first, but in a surprise move Saturday the LTTE agreed to hold unconditional talks with the government.

"It may be that the JVP, before agreeing to a dialogue, wishes to be assured of the government's genuine desire to bring about peace," Mr. Wijeratne said.

He said Mr. Premadasa had asked him to invite a JVP representative for "preliminary talks" to decide whether an official dialogue with the government would be helpful to bring peace in the country.

He said Sri Lankan troops resumed anti-rebel operations Wednesday, at the end of the ceasefire.

The LTTE's decision to talk to Colombo is aimed at ending the violence in the island's Tamil populated northern and eastern regions where a bloody Tamil campaign for a homeland called Eelam broke out in mid-1983, observers said.

Officials said they were hopeful about a positive outcome from the talks, but opposition parties and Western diplomats are sceptical and have described the LTTE's move as a ploy to get Indian troops out of the island.

India has some 45-50,000 peacekeeping troops in the Tamil-populated northeast in line with a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which sought to end the Eelam campaign.

The troops have been fighting LTTE guerrillas since October 1987 after the group repudiated the accord. Since then, more than 735 Indian troops and 2,000 suspected LTTE activists have died in fighting.

"Whatever demands put by the LTTE will be discussed and if they have repurcussions, then it will be discussed with those who will be affected by it. We are not going to take unilateral action," Mr. Wijeratne said.

He said it was possible that the initial talks with the LTTE would lead to a dialogue between LTTE supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran and Mr. Premadasa if the rebel leader wished.

"My wish is a settlement, no matter who speaks to whom if the killings stop," Mr. Wijeratne said.

Mr. Wijeratne, who is also the junior defence minister, said 241 suspected JVP militants, including a man responsible for assassinating a government minister last year, had surrendered to the government during the ceasefire.

"We expected a better response from the JVP. No Tamil rebels had surrendered... I cannot say the ceasefire was a success," Mr. Wijeratne said.

Hours after Mr. Wijeratne's statement, the JVP butchered five members of one family in southern Matara District in what appeared to be a revenge attack.

Residents contacted by telephone said the family was apparently targetted because one of its members had surrendered during the truce and was believed to have acted as an informant to security forces.

Officials said two bodies of suspected JVP members were found floating in southern Nilwala River Thursday.

Both the LTTE and the JVP oppose, for different reasons, the 1987 accord. Since it was signed, the JVP has been accused of killing over 2,700 political rivals.

Further on Talks

BK1904111489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1101 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Colombo, April 19 (AFP)—The government Wednesday invited Sinhalese militants for preliminary talks as security forces resumed anti-rebel operations with the ending of a week-long government-declared truce.

Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne invited the Sinhalese militant group, the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front), for "preliminary talks to test the government's sincerity and honesty."

"The JVP would want to test the sincerity and honesty of the government before a direct dialogue. We invite the JVP to nominate a representative for preliminary talks so that he can judge for himself," Mr. Wijeratne said in a statement.

Mr. Wijeratne who is also junior defence minister said that President Ranasinghe Premadasa had instructed him to invite a JVP representative and the government was keenly awaiting a response.

The JVP had repeatedly rejected offers to talk peace with the government, but the dominant Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] agreed to talks in a surprise move Saturday [15 April].

The latest government statement came as security forces resumed cordon and search and surveillance operations against the JVP and Tamil guerrillas as the unilateral ceasefire ended without significant results, the officials said.

They said during the government-declared truce, intended to persuade militants to surrender and join mainstream politics, more than 125 people, including 21 Sri Lankan and 10 Indian soldiers, died in rebel-related violence.

Military officials said nearly 200 rebel suspects and deserters from the armed forces surrendered during the truce but there were no important leaders among them.

The suspension of military and police operations was part of a peace package offered by President Ranasinghe Premadasa to the JVP and the LTTE.

Both groups initially rejected the offer, but the LTTE, the dominant Tamil separatist group, later agreed to direct talks with Mr. Premadasa.

Preliminary talks with the LTTE's political strategist are expected next week.

The LTTE is currently battling some 45,000 to 50,000 Indian soldiers deployed in the island's northern and eastern regions in line with a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord aimed at ending a bloody separatist campaign.

LTTE militants repudiated the peace accord prompting a major Indian offensive to disarm the group in October 1987. Since then, more than 735 Indian troops and 2,000 LTTE activists have died in bitter fighting.

The JVP is opposed, for different reasons, to the 1987 peace pact and has continued violent attacks on government supporters and leftist rivals backing the Indo-Sri Lanka pact.

Sinhalese Rebels Behead 5 in Revenge Attack

BK2004085289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0840 GMT 20 Apr 89

[Text] Colombo, April 20 (AFP)—Suspected Sinhalese rebels Thursday [20 April] beheaded five people in one family in southern Sri Lanka in what appeared to be a revenge attack, officials and residents said.

Activists believed to be from the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) attacked the family in Kottegoda village because a young man in the family had apparently acted as an informant, residents said.

"Security forces had arrested about 25 JVP men with the help of the man who surrendered last week," residents said.

District officials confirmed the killings and said four of the bodies had later been badly burnt. The JVP is known to have carried out similar attacks on policemen and those suspected to be informants.

The group is continuing a campaign against supporters of President Ranasinghe Premadasa's United National Party and security personnel.

JVP activists set off three landmines in the southern province overnight, officials here said. Troops resumed operations against the JVP after a unilateral ceasefire ended Wednesday without results.

Two suspected JVP men were found murdered and floating in Nilwala River in the south, residents said.

233 'Misguided' Youth Surrender By Deadline

BK1904102589 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0941 GMT 19 Apr 89

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, April 19 (LANKAPUVATH)—A total of 233 misguided youth have given themselves up since President Ranasinghe Premadasa called on them to eschew violence, accept the offer of an amnesty and enter the democratic process.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that 43 had given themselves up for rehabilitation at civilian manned reception centres yesterday, before the government announced week-long suspension of security operations ended at 0600 hours (local time) today.

The sources said that two youth had given themselves up yesterday at Vavuniya in the North and Weli Oya in the East.

Giving details, the sources said 68 had given themselves up at Anuradhapura and 3 at Polonnaruwa in the North Central Province, 65 at Kurunegala and 4 at Puttalam in the North Western Province, 23 at Kalutara, 5 in Colombo, 9 at Gampaha in the Western Province, Badulla 5 and Moneragala 5 in the Uva Province, 6 at Kegalle in the Sabaragamuwa Province, Ampara 4 and Weli Oya 1, in the Eastern Province, Nuwara Eliya 4, Kandy 1 and Matale 1 in the Central Province and Galle 3, in the Southern Province.

Official sources said misguided youth could continue to give themselves up to the authorities.

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